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PREPARATIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE

Report of the European Population Conference, Geneva, 23-26 March 1993

Note by the Secretary-General of the Conference

1. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1991/93 of 26 July 1991, invited the regional commissions to convene meetings or conferences to review the experience gained in population policies and programmes in their regions as part of their contribution to the preparatory activities for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development.

2. The European Population Conference, jointly sponsored by the Economic Commission for Europe, the Council of Europe and the United Nations Population Fund, was convened in Geneva from 23 to 26 March 1993. Annexed to the present document, in the languages of submission only, are the recommendations of that Conference.

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* E/CONF.84/PC/3/Rev.1.

ANNEX

Recommendations of the European Population Conference, held at Geneva from 23 to 26 March 1993

I. BACKGROUND

1. In the history of the development of the world's population the decade straddling the end of this century will be decisive. Long-term population trends will depend, among other things, on measures and policies introduced during that decade. There is, therefore, an urgent need for politicians and policy makers at the global, regional and national levels to come to grips with the serious demographic challenges faced and to influence fundamentally the future course of events.

2. The nature of these challenges varies widely. At the global level, the expected tremendous increase in population numbers -- the world's population will grow from 5.3 billion to over 8 billion between 1990 and 2020 -- has driven home the fact that population and the environment are highly interdependent and that continued population growth, combined with unsustainable modes of production and consumption leading to environmental degradation through air, soil and water pollution, threatens the very basis on which life depends. It has also led to the realisation that the future of countries is inextricably linked and that this interdependence necessitates international cooperation and solidarity among the different regions of the world.

3. For the developing countries, where over 90 per cent of the future world population growth will take place, the challenge is to generate adequate levels of sustainable economic and social development, notwithstanding high levels of population growth, and to devote sufficient resources to population and development programmes to enable these countries to move towards their own demographic transition. Considerable progress has been made along this path, but in many developing countries no substantial decline of fertility has yet taken place. Entire regions are still experiencing higher levels of fertility than they consider desirable and have such a young age-structure that they find it difficult, if not impossible, to feed, educate and train the coming generations and to provide them with gainful employment.

4. In most of the developed countries the situation is entirely different. They have experienced a sustained period of low, at times unprecedented low, levels of fertility. In many instances, these countries are still evaluating the implications of long-term population decline. At the same time the

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population is ageing rapidly. Also, Europe is now a region of destination of international migration.

5. A very particular challenge for the region results from the developments taking place in the countries undergoing political and economic transition. The revival of old national and ethnic rivalries not only facilitates the emergence of armed conflicts and serious political crises, but also exacerbates demographic problems. Moreover, countries in transition face the formidable task of having to catch up with the almost uninterrupted social and economic progress experienced elsewhere in Europe in order to offer their populations better standards of living, a less polluted environment and a life free from armed conflict. For Europe as a whole, the existence of this group of countries in transition also poses a formidable challenge which taxes to the limit the solidarity and inventiveness of all Governments of the region. It also makes Europe's demographic situation very complex.

6. With due consideration to the most pressing issues both at the global and regional levels, priority areas were selected for discussion during this Conference of the European and North American region, herein referred to as "the region". These were:

- Fertility, status of women and the family;
- Health and mortality;
- Population growth and structure;
- International migration;
- International cooperation; and
- Generation of policy-relevant knowledge.

These areas have strong interrelations, a fact which will be taken into account in the recommendations of this Conference.

7. The last few decades have been marked by very important changes in the societal context of fertility, status of women and the family. Fertility has declined unexpectedly and dramatically, and continues to be well below the level necessary for the replacement of generations. Even though in a few countries slight increases have been observed recently, the general expectation must be that, at least for the immediate future, substantial increases are unlikely as couples do not seem to desire larger families. Fertility regulation is now widely practised in the region. In many countries, however, individuals and couples have no access to or make insufficient use of appropriate methods of fertility regulation. High rates of unintended pregnancy and abortion attest to this problem, notably in eastern Europe.

8. An ever-increasing number of women are trying to achieve personal fulfilment both in their family and professional lives. A great challenge facing society is to create conditions enabling men and women to combine parental and work roles in a responsible manner.

9. New types of family arrangements have emerged, such as non-married cohabiting couples and single parent families; as a result the number of children born from these unions is increasing. Even in areas where this situation does not prevail as yet, such phenomena may soon appear. Clearly the great challenges facing society are to accommodate these pluralistic family forms in all aspects of society.

10. The improvements in health promotion, disease prevention and treatments and their effects on morbidity and mortality levels and trends in most western countries of the region have been very significant and further gains may be expected. Following rapid success in the fight against infectious diseases, advances have also been made in reducing mortality from cardio-vascular

diseases and, to some extent, from cancer. The implications of this favourable development are, among others, the increase of chronic and degenerative diseases. Both the general welfare development and the considerable expansion of health services have contributed to health improvements, as has the increased awareness in the population that modified personal behaviour with regard to eating, drinking and smoking has a positive effect on their health.

11. At the same time, new problems have arisen while old problems have become more acute. The AIDS pandemic and drug abuse, particularly among the young, are causes for concern, as is the link between environmental degradation and its influence on health and mortality. In many countries of the region there is also the important issue of increasing the availability of quality health care and the financing of health services. This is a particular concern for the countries in transition. Disparities in various demographic indicators, such as maternal and infant mortality and life expectancy, between western and eastern Europe suggest the need for improved health care, including reproductive health services.

12. The continued low levels of fertility and declining mortality at higher ages have direct consequences for population growth and the age structure of the countries in the region. In spite of the diversity which still exists, both at the macro and micro levels, there are closely convergent demographic trends, such as those towards very low or negative levels of population growth and ageing. These trends have important socio-economic and political implications. The aged population constitutes a valuable and important component of a society's human resources. In many countries "ageing policies" are being developed to enable societies to adjust to changes in the composition and size of the labour force. The development of specific "ageing policies" is all the more important since the already high expenditure for health and retirement benefits is likely to increase with ageing. It should be realized that the issue of ageing is complex and is a challenge to those societies in which longevity has been increasing for some time. This achievement leads to new developments in the nature of the social contract which binds generations together.

13. With regard to international migration it was noted that, whatever their inclination, most European countries had, as in the case of the United States and Canada, a considerable net influx of migrants. Because of worldwide economic and social disparities and political conflicts, the region will have to deal with long-term migration pressures from other parts of the world. Obviously the most crucial questions to be faced are how to control and manage the migratory flows to and within Europe in a humane and effective way and how to achieve a desirable level of integration. Apart from family migration which is, or is becoming, the largest flow of legal migration, two other categories of migrants have emerged preeminently on both sides of the Atlantic: asylum-seekers and irregular migrants. Asylum procedures are being increasingly used not only by genuine refugees but also by migrants whose motivation is economic. It is also important to keep in mind that while western Europe, through the European Community and its cooperation with the countries of the European Free Trade Association, is basically committed to the free movement of people within its area, this "openness" is difficult to achieve or maintain. There is a clear need for increased cooperation within Europe in the field of international migration. It is in the interest of both the sending and the receiving countries to see that ways are found to ameliorate the short-term crises and the long-term deprivation which lead to uncontrolled migration flows. Furthermore, countries in transition may be both generating and hosting substantial flows of migrants in the coming years.

14. International cooperation already exists among the countries of Europe and North America and the developing countries, as well as within the region. A major challenge is to continue to support the developing countries in their

developmental and population programmes while at the same time intensifying similar activities with the countries in transition. The imbalance between population dynamics and economic and social development, and its perceived impact at the world level on the environment has contributed to increasing awareness of the complex interdependency between different regions of the world.

II. PREAMBLE

15. Considering resolution 1991/93 of the Economic and Social Council inviting the regional commissions of the United Nations to organize, in preparation of the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994, regional conferences to review the experiences gained in population policies and programmes in their regions, bearing in mind the relationship between such policies and programmes and development issues, and to propose further action;

16. Considering decision G (40) of the Economic Commission for Europe, which requested the Executive Secretary to collaborate with the United Nations Population Fund in convening periodically a regional meeting of experts on population for consultations amongst Governments and for the dissemination and exchange of information on population problems and policies in the ECE region;

17. Considering the decision of the Ministers' Deputies of the Council of Europe at their 470th meeting to convene this Conference jointly with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the United Nations Population Fund;

18. Aware of the political changes which have occurred recently in Europe and of their positive impact on the development of cooperation between all countries of the region;

19. Mindful that despite the diversities of their socio-economic, political, cultural, demographic and environmental conditions, the countries of the region share important common concerns in regard to population;

20. Aware of the specific needs of the countries in transition in the field of population, particularly in the context of the economic reforms under way there;

21. Mindful also that the developed and the developing countries in the perspective of sustainable development share common ground and interest on population matters, and are desirous to cooperate in this area;

22. Noting the principles of the World Population Plan of Action adopted in Bucharest in 1974 and the 1984 Mexico City Declaration on Population and Development;

23. Noting also the relevance of the 1989 Amsterdam Declaration "A Better Life for Future Generations";

24. Reaffirming that population policies including migration policies, should be consistent with and observe the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1950) and its additional protocols, the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979), the Convention (1951) and the Protocol (1967) relating to the status of refugees and similar international instruments;

25. Conscious of the principle of equity in health and the policy targets as stated in the Health for All Strategy by the year 2000 of the World Health Organisation and of the European Charter on Environment and Health, Frankfurt, 1989;

26. Stressing the importance of the activities initiated in the context of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe which contribute to the observance of human rights, to conflict prevention, and the improvement of living conditions of the population of the countries concerned;

27. Reaffirming the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, and the commitment demonstrated by this Conference that all concerns of sustainable development, including those related directly to population, should be addressed in a fully integrated manner;

28. Recognising with appreciation the valuable role international governmental organisations, including the Council of Europe and United Nations organizations, and non-governmental organisations have played and can play in promoting greater awareness of the nature of population problems and the need for effective action;

29. Reviewing recent population trends and policies, and future prospects of demographic development in the region, as described in the documents submitted to the Conference and summed up in Section I. above;

The European Population Conference

30. Adopts the recommendations contained below and requests the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe to transmit these recommendations to the Preparatory Committee of the International Conference on Population and Development.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

Recommendation 1

Recognizing that sustainable development on the global scale is a common responsibility to be shared by the Governments of the region and those of the developing countries, the former should actively participate in all necessary joint efforts to be undertaken in this respect. Governments of the region should in particular be aware that poverty, population growth and environmental degradation are closely interrelated. While population growth and poverty result in certain kinds of environmental stress, the major causes of the continued deterioration of the global environment are the unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, particularly in industrialized countries. Common targets should be the promotion of patterns of consumption and production that reduce environmental stress, and the encouragement of social and economic development that meets basic needs and allows for better living conditions and appropriate fertility rates.

Recommendation 2

Population-related activities touching upon the most personal sphere of life should, as a prerequisite, be implemented in accordance with human and fundamental rights. They should in particular contribute to the improvement of the role and status of women, the reduction of large discrepancies in living standards and the peaceful settlement of religious, ethnic, political and economic conflicts.

A. FERTILITY, STATUS OF WOMEN AND THE FAMILY

a) Socio-economic support to the family and gender equality

Recommendation 3

A more child-friendly and family-friendly environment should be promoted in all spheres of society such as housing, child-care programmes, working conditions, time schedules and recreational facilities.

Recommendation 4

Governments, in cooperation with the private sector and the social partners, should help the ever-increasing number of parents who desire to achieve fulfilment through both professional life and parental roles. They could contribute to making these two goals compatible by developing and strengthening social services such as child minders, crèches, kindergartens, and parental leave. In addition, they should encourage other measures to facilitate work outside the family by either parent, such as part-time activity and flexible schedules. Particular attention should be given to the needs of women, who still bear a disproportionate burden of the responsibility in the family, by introducing measures which encourage men to share these responsibilities.

Recommendation 5

Governments and private organizations, as appropriate, should consider measures which compensate, at least partially, for the costs of child-bearing and child-rearing, particularly for those with limited resources. These measures may include direct financial and other support, tax incentives, and low-cost or free child and maternal welfare services.

Recommendation 6

In order to develop better gender equality, Governments should promote conditions that further political, economic and social equality between men and women, including equal opportunities for education, training and employment, and equality in family responsibilities.

Recommendation 7

Governments and private organizations, as appropriate, are encouraged to develop more targeted programmes focusing on vulnerable groups of the population and families which bear special burdens. An objective is to address persistent and ever-growing poverty and low income among those sections of the population by such measures as income maintenance, job creation, housing support, free or subsidized training, and preferential child care.

b) Reproductive rights, reproductive health and family planning

Recommendation 8

In their social and family policies, Governments should adopt measures to enable individuals and couples to exercise their right to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children. These measures should increase the access of individuals and couples to education, information and the means of regulating their fertility, including the treatment of infertility, regardless of overall demographic goals. Counselling and quality family planning services should be provided and supported to reduce the number of induced abortions. In view of the current situation in countries in transition, Governments of these countries should strengthen their services in reproductive health, including family planning, and encourage non-governmental organizations in this field.

Recommendation 9

Although most countries are experiencing favourable trends towards the use of medically-approved family planning methods, there are still groups which need particular attention. Governments should seek to increase access to appropriate information, family planning services and educational programmes for these groups.

Recommendation 10

Public authorities at national and local levels, non-governmental organizations and other institutions concerned should support non-coercive family planning services, which respect the values of recipients, together with maternal and child health programmes and related reproductive health services. Family planning associations and other concerned non-governmental organizations should be involved in the design and implementation of these programmes and services. In promoting the development of family planning services, particular attention should be given to the quality of the services.

Recommendation 11

As new methods of medically-assisted reproduction and their use are developing rapidly, Governments should provide for mechanisms to examine the ethical dimensions of the application of these methods and their social, economic, legal and health consequences. International exchanges on these questions should be organized by the Council of Europe and other international organizations.

B. HEALTH AND MORTALITY

a) Health promotion and personal behaviour

Recommendation 12

According to WHO Health for All Targets towards the year 2000, Governments should encourage popular participation in designing and executing health policies. This includes specific health and intersectoral policies affecting the health status of the population, including those collaborative international efforts to prevent and control HIV/AIDS. In particular, community participation in primary care, long-term care for the elderly and/or disabled, and local initiatives concerning the promotion of health for all should be reinforced. Different forms of self-care based on recent knowledge and information should be developed.

Recommendation 13

Governments should consider health promotion a principal strategy for improving health and prolonging a healthy life. Health promotion consists of the following: (a) the transmission of knowledge regarding disease prevention and health-maintaining behaviour to the general public as well as to specific risk groups, such as teenagers; (b) the internalizing and application of knowledge by the respective target groups, resulting in changes in personal behaviour, such as ceasing to smoke, lower or no consumption of alcohol and drugs, eating a more balanced diet, more responsible driving behaviour, performing physical exercises and practising safe sex. Governments should also consider education programmes as well as taxes and other financial mechanisms to discourage the excessive use of substances such as tobacco and alcohol, and the abuse of psycho-active drugs. The needed infrastructure should be provided by Governments, the private sector and by communities.

b) Health and the environment

Recommendation 14

Governments in collaboration with the private sector should recognize the link between the commitment to policies that lead to ecologically sustainable development, the prevention and control of risks, and equitable access to a healthy environment, as stated in the European Charter on Environment and Health, in the UNCED recommendations and in WHO documents. This includes, among other things, ensuring water and air quality, food quality and safety, waste management, chemical safety, health of people at work, safe housing and supportive environments for each generation. An initial indispensable step consists of monitoring air, water and soil pollution and its impact on the health of human beings, particularly of vulnerable groups, such as children, the elderly and workers at risk.

Recommendation 15

Governments should identify and monitor the causes of socio-economic and regional mortality and morbidity differentials, and subsequently make efforts to reduce them.

c) Health of women and children

Recommendation 16

Governments should ensure that families, and in particular women and children, have access to a full range of appropriate, quality health services and programmes. This includes family planning and reproductive health services entailing preconceptual, prenatal and postnatal care. Such services should be accessible to all women and also contribute to reducing infant and maternal mortality and morbidity and promote healthy birth outcomes and healthy development of children, now and in the future, in keeping with the goals of the declaration and plan of action adopted at the World Summit for Children, 1990.

Recommendation 17

Particular attention should be given to the protection of pregnant women and to breast- feeding mothers at the workplace.

d) Healthy ageing

Recommendation 18

Governments should provide and promote appropriate services, care and support to elderly people in need, implement strategies to increase the number

of disability free years and improve their quality of life.

e) Health systems

Recommendation 19

Governments are urged to reform health systems so as to increase their cost effectiveness and efficiency and to improve their responsiveness to the needs of the respective populations. The need for reform of the health system is particularly obvious in countries in transition, where recent changes have not only exposed the extent of the health crisis but also

have further exacerbated the crisis due to the austerity measures necessary to implement the transition to a market economy.

Recommendation 20

Governments as well as private and public organizations concerned should make every effort to maintain an adequate level of medical and social protection for disadvantaged groups in light of the fact that financial difficulties faced by social security systems and the lack of health insurance coverage of various groups, in addition to persistently high levels of unemployment, entail inadequate medical protection for parts of the population.

f) Health personnel

Recommendation 21

In the formulation and implementation of their health policies, Governments should pay attention to the problem of insufficient availability of qualified personnel in certain categories of health personnel (e.g. nurses). They are therefore invited to consider adjusting training curricula and facilities. They should encourage adapting working conditions and improving social status and salaries accordingly. Governments should also ensure that women have an important role in decision making for health.

C. POPULATION GROWTH AND AGE STRUCTURE: SELECTED CONSEQUENCES

a) Population growth and age structure

Recommendation 22

In their economic and social policies, Governments should take into account the consequences of the fluctuating numbers of population in different age groups resulting from past demographic changes. Knowledge of demographic trends should be given due consideration by policy-makers. These policies should focus on the effects of population fluctuations on the education system, the labour market, and on the social and health services for the elderly. Governments and policy makers should ensure that short-term policies work in conjunction with long-term policies to address the consequences of population ageing.

Recommendation 23

Governments should appreciate that, while certain imbalances in the labour market may be compensated for by immigration, immigration may not be a full solution for the adjustment of the age structure. Heavy reliance on immigration to solve demographic imbalances could in the long run lead to substantial fluctuations in the age structures of national populations.

b) Socio-economic consequences of ageing

Recommendation 24

Governments should give high priority to the development of human resources as a way of dealing with the adverse effects of population ageing. Suitable measures should include the training of both young and adult persons, and incentives for a better use of the older members of the labour force and of those retirees able and willing to remain economically active. The valuable contribution that the elderly make to society, especially as volunteers and care-givers, should be given due recognition.

Recommendation 25

Governments should seek to enhance the self-reliance of the elderly and to facilitate their continued participation in society. Governments should ensure that the necessary conditions are created to enable elderly people to lead self-determined lives and to make full use of the skills and abilities they have acquired in their lives for the benefit of society.

Recommendation 26

Governments should consider, as appropriate, social security system reforms to ensure greater intergenerational and intragenerational equity and solidarity. Such reforms should also deal with the potential imbalances between revenues and expenditures in the pension programme. Those no longer capable of working should be assured reasonable benefits, irrespective of age.

c) Resources for the care of the elderly

Recommendation 27

Policies should stimulate different forms of care for older populations, which will increase substantially in numbers, especially in the highest age brackets. Special efforts should be made to enable older persons to remain in their homes and communities, as far as possible, by providing greater home and community health care and social services, improving coordination of community services, expanding rehabilitation programmes, and giving financial and other incentives to assist families and individuals in taking care of the elderly. Governments should also elaborate policies to address the growing need for organized care in public and private sectors.

Recommendation 28

Governments should ensure adequate quantitative and qualitative recruitment of human resources to cope with the growing needs of the formal old-age care sector already faced with severe pressures on human resources. Governments, local authorities and organizations should implement measures to improve the status and working conditions of those professional groups. In addition, the contribution of families and volunteers should be recognized and encouraged by all organizations concerned but should not be considered as a substitute for formal care.

D. INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

Recommendation 29

Wider discussion of the economic, social, cultural and political implications of migration should be undertaken in order to elaborate or improve appropriate policies. Governments of sending and receiving countries should improve the dissemination of information and promote consultations with a view to reaching a broad national and international consensus on these questions.

Recommendation 30

Cooperation in the field of migration should also be considered in the context of economic, social and legal cooperation.

a) Migration and development

Recommendation 31

Governments of countries of origin and destination should seek to redress the causes of emigration in order to alleviate the massive and uncontrolled international migration flows. The redressing of these causes would require increased effort to achieve sustainable economic and social development, avoid international and internal conflicts, respect the rule of law, promote good governance, strengthen democracy, promote human rights, support education, nutrition, health and population-relevant programmes, and ensure effective environmental protection. This may require financial assistance, the reassessment of commercial and tariff relations and full access to world markets, and stepped-up efforts on the part of developing countries to create the framework for a market oriented economy and a liberal trading system. The economic situation in these countries is likely to improve only gradually and, therefore, migration flows from these countries will decline only in the long-term; in the interim, the acute problems currently observed will cause migration flows into the region. In addition, Governments of countries of destination should acknowledge the influence of economic "pull" factors on international migration.

Recommendation 32

Governments of countries of destination have the right to control access to their territory and adopt policies which shape immigration flows. Such measures should conform with universally recognized international standards. As movements of persons are part of the process of development of free societies and market economies, host countries should also adopt policies which allow legal migrants the option of remaining, either on a temporary or permanent basis.

Recommendation 33

Forms of temporary migration, such as short-term and project-related migration, might offer the Governments of the region an opportunity to improve the skills of nationals of developing countries and countries in transition; they should therefore be considered, if appropriate, in the national and regional context through both bilateral and multilateral intergovernmental agreements. Appropriate steps should be taken to safeguard the wages and working conditions of both migrants and nationals in the affected sectors.

b) Refugees and displaced persons

Recommendation 34

In view of their responsibilities under the United Nations Charter, and consistent with their obligations under the existing international instruments in the field of human rights, Governments should do everything in their power to avoid new massive flows of refugees and displaced persons. Accordingly, they should respect the rights of individuals belonging to minorities and refrain from creating or contributing, by their domestic policies, to causes and factors which generally lead to massive flows of refugees and involuntary migration. This implies, among other things, a condemnation of all kinds of "ethnic cleansing" whether it is the responsibility of Governments or local groups within a country.

Recommendation 35

Women and children comprise the overwhelming majority of the worldwide refugee population. Protection and assistance programmes can be effective only if they are planned and implemented with full recognition of the needs of women and children. The active involvement of refugee women in all stages of programme development and service delivery is essential.

Recommendation 36

Confirming their commitment to the relevant international instruments concerning protection of refugees, Governments should do their utmost to ensure protection and assistance to refugees and displaced persons, with the aim of finding durable solutions, and to support all efforts to this end. They should harmonize as far as possible their asylum policies and regulations in accordance with international instruments and in a way that does not add to the suffering already experienced by refugees and displaced persons. They recognize that solutions to the problem of refugees and displaced persons may best be achieved through a comprehensive approach.

Recommendation 37

In cases of sudden and massive arrivals of refugees and displaced persons in need of international protection, they should be accorded at least temporary protection and treatment in accordance with the national practices and regulations and internationally recognized humanitarian standards, until

a solution is found. Governments should encourage persons in need of international protection to stay, to the extent possible, in the safe areas nearest to their countries of origin. Availability of aid and the strengthening of protection mechanisms in these areas should contribute to this objective, while at the same time building confidence among the persons concerned. The principles of collective cooperation and international solidarity should be applied in assisting host countries, if requested.

Recommendation 38

Governments and international organizations should support the voluntary repatriation of refugees and displaced persons as a durable solution.

Recommendation 39

Governments should apply fair, efficient, expeditious and reliable procedures to deal with asylum applicants.

Recommendation 40

Governments are urged to further promote coordination and consultation to prevent the misuse of humanitarian instruments which in the long run might negatively affect the right of asylum.

c) Illegal migration and illegal stay

Recommendation 41

Governments should aim to prevent uncontrolled influxes of migrants by making potential migrants aware of the legal conditions for entry, employment and stay in host countries through information activities in the countries of origin, making use of the facilities of international organizations where appropriate. Governments should also take action against traffickers and employers of illegal immigrants. For efforts to control migration, in particular illegal migration and illegal stay, to be successful, countries should devote appropriate financial, political and diplomatic resources to them.

Recommendation 42

Governments of countries of origin of illegal migrants and rejected asylum-seekers should not impede the re-entry and re-integration of these persons. In addition, Governments of countries of origin and destination should try to find satisfactory long-term solutions to the problems caused by illegal migration through multilateral and bilateral negotiations, for example by readmission agreements.

Recommendation 43

As a consequence of the irregularity of their situation, illegal immigrants are particularly vulnerable to all forms of exploitation and discrimination. Governments of receiving countries should ensure that their basic human rights are respected.

d) Integration

Recommendation 44

The social and economic integration of resident legal migrants, a common responsibility of the host society and the migrants themselves, should also be a major objective of government policy. Security of residence, especially

after a number of years, is an essential condition for successful integration. Where legal immigration has proved to be of a long-term nature, naturalization should normally be available, especially for second generation immigrants; civil and political rights and responsibilities should be extended to long-term legal immigrants, as appropriate.

Recommendation 45

It is a basic function of Governments to ensure the protection of all residents -- including foreigners -- against violence and the threat of violence. Governments should urgently develop strategies to combat racist or xenophobic violence and threatening behaviour, especially through information, education and the promotion of tolerance and understanding.

Recommendation 46

Public authorities at the national and local levels, the private sector and the non-governmental organizations should take into account the different national, ethnic and cultural origins of immigrants and show an open attitude towards their cultural, religious and other values, as long as these are compatible with the laws and fundamental values of the host societies. Equality of opportunity should, as far as possible, be granted to resident legal immigrants. At the same time, Governments as well as immigrants should recognize that action to enable resident legal immigrants to have access to education, training, employment and housing, and to achieve a high level of competence in the languages of host societies, in accordance with national legislation, are crucial to the success of integration strategies. In this context, special efforts should be made in favour of migrant women, children and other vulnerable groups.

E. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF POPULATION

Recommendation 47

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development has highlighted the interaction between population, environment and sustainable development. An increasing number of countries is aware that rapid population growth imposes growing constraints on social and economic development, with negative effects in particular on the environment and on the natural resource base. To help solve these problems is also a challenge for the United Nations member countries of the region. Moreover, the political, social and economic transformations of historical importance, and the birth of the new democracies in the countries in transition, have created new possibilities for European cooperation. In recognizing that international cooperation, especially that to support the efforts of countries with rapid population growth, is more urgent than ever, member countries should seize the opportunity for closer cooperation within the region as well as with the developing countries, which has been created by the end of the East-West conflict and the consensus on the elements of a global partnership for development. This cooperation in the field of population should be permanently based on respect for fundamental human rights and the responsible exercise of such rights for all individuals.

a) Cooperation within the region

Recommendation 48

Governments should, as a matter of urgency, assist countries in transition in the field of population issues. Key elements of such assistance should be financial support through bilateral and multilateral channels. Technical backstopping, training, exchange of information, experience and

expertise should be used to strengthen data collection and research capabilities.

Recommendation 49

Governments and regional organizations, in collaboration with international organizations, should elaborate and implement a coordinated strategy to assist countries in

transition in the field of reproductive health, including family planning, in the implementation of reforms in health systems, and in the field of migration.

Recommendation 50

Governments and organizations concerned should assist countries in transition to develop policies and implement integrated activities relating to health-population-environment issues.

b) Cooperation with developing countries

Recommendation 51

Cooperation with developing countries should be built upon a strengthened partnership based on the recognition of sovereign equality, mutual interest and shared responsibility with mutual commitments. While developing countries have a primary responsibility for their own economic and social development, including the formulation and implementation of appropriate national policies relating to population and development, developed countries have a special responsibility to help create a favourable international economic environment and to increase the quantity and quality of their assistance, particularly in the field of population.

Recommendation 52

The rate of population growth is acknowledged to have a major influence on global prospects for economic and social development. A broad consensus has emerged on the complex interrelationships between poverty, population growth, human rights, environment, and economic, social and human development. Even though fertility rates in many countries have decreased substantially, the high rate of population growth is still a fundamental problem in a large number of developing countries, adversely affecting individual health and welfare, national economic progress and employment, and the natural resource base; the rapid population growth is also putting strong pressure on health services, education systems, social services and housing. Governments, regional institutions and non-governmental organizations of the region should give a high priority to cooperation with developing countries, supporting their efforts to achieve population growth rates and distributions which strike an optimal balance between their population, the natural resource base and the environment. Special attention should be given to the African region, where population-related problems are particularly serious. In doing so, Governments, regional institutions and non-governmental organizations should give high priority to population issues in their development assistance strategies, to help to improve the quality of human resources and the status of women, to answer unmet demands for reproductive health services, including family planning services, and to promote health in its various aspects. They should address these issues continuously in their policy dialogues with partner-countries, both at the bilateral and the multilateral levels.

Recommendation 53

There is already a large, and growing, unmet demand in developing countries for family planning services. UNFPA estimates that 300 million women world-wide would like to use family planning services but do not enjoy the fundamental human right of access to them, nor do they have the ability to plan freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children. Efforts should thus be intensified to ensure the availability of family planning services to all who wish to make use of them. Such efforts can be expected to help in achieving population growth rates which contribute to a sustainable use of natural resources.

(i) The commitment

Recommendation 54

Developing and developed countries alike should increase their political commitment to population-related programmes and policies, in accordance with their national priorities and goals and with due respect for fundamental human rights.

Recommendation 55

Governments, intergovernmental institutions and non-governmental organizations should commit themselves to working together to promote inter-sectorial collaboration and to coordinate their assistance to population activities with a view to maximizing the effective use of scarce resources, to avoid duplications and to make optimum use of the available expertise within the field. Coordination with the United Nations Population Fund, with other multilateral and bilateral donors, and with non-governmental organizations is essential to ensure that the needs and requirements of developing countries are fully addressed.

(ii) Basic principles of cooperation

Recommendation 56

Population-related programmes and policies should be an integral part of national development strategies. Policies must be linked to programmes on primary health care (including efforts to combat infant mortality), literacy and education, enduring adequate food supplies, housing, employment, and the sustainable use of natural resources. Particular importance is attached to gender perspectives, to the full involvement of both women and men in reproductive health programmes, and in the development process. The improvement of the status of women at all socio-economic and political levels, and the extent to which they are free to make responsible decisions affecting their lives and those of their families, including decisions on reproduction, should be promoted as crucial factors for women and child health-related issues and, consequently, for future population growth rates. Great weight should be

attached to participatory development of population-related programmes and policies to ensure grass-roots acceptance and involvement.

Recommendation 57

Population-related programmes and policies must be based on the fundamental right of individuals and couples to make their own informed choices with regard to their sexual and reproductive health and behaviour and the health of their living and future children. Therefore no assistance or encouragement should be given to programmes which are in any way coercive, discriminatory or prejudicial to fundamental human rights. Design and implementation of population programmes should give due consideration to the ethical and cultural aspects as long as they respect fundamental human rights. Population-related programmes and policies should be based on the right of individuals to choose voluntarily the number and spacing of their children, supported by adequate information on reproductive health services, on the full range of family planning services, including the availability of contraceptive means and methods, and information on their advantages, effectiveness and safety.

Recommendation 58

Population programmes cannot be successfully implemented if women are not fully involved in all aspects of development and decision making. This is closely dependent on legal rights, on the ability to exercise those rights and on achievements in the field of education, particularly with regard to women and young girls. Governments should take appropriate measures to develop or strengthen the legislative framework to ensure women's full participation in development and society. High priority should be given to universal literacy and education at all levels. Furthermore, population and family planning topics should be integrated into education programmes for the information and education of young people.

(iii) Objectives of cooperation

Recommendation 59

As objectives of cooperation Governments should:

- Assist countries in assessing the environmental and developmental implications of their population growth and movement.

- Enable countries and local communities to respond to and influence population growth and movement, with due respect to fundamental reproductive and human rights.

- Assist in promoting, developing and implementing appropriate national population-related programmes and policies as part of overall national plans for economically and environmentally sustainable development and poverty reduction.

Recommendation 60

As objectives of cooperation Governments should also:

- Enable women and men to freely exercise an informed and responsible choice concerning the number and spacing of their children.

- Assist in creating an environment in which this free choice can be fully exercised, particularly by improving access to and the quality of reproductive health services, including family planning.

Recommendation 61

Furthermore, governments should also:

- Assist in providing access to information and education on population issues, including sexuality, reproduction and contraceptive methods, in schools and outside, including family and community-based programmes, for both men and women.

- Promote research on reproductive health issues as part of Essential National Health Research programmes supported by the international community, and develop and improve methods of contraception in order to widen the choices available for voluntary family planning.

- Assist developing countries, where appropriate, to evaluate the quality and safety of contraceptive methods available.

(iv) Action

Recommendation 62

In order to achieve sustainable development and a higher quality of life for all, developing and developed countries alike should commit themselves to reducing and eliminating unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and to promoting appropriate policies on population and development. The goal of an optimal balance between population, production and consumption patterns, and resources is the common challenge binding all countries.

Recommendation 63

To achieve this balance, an increased investment of financial and human resources is required. Governments are encouraged to increase, on a regular basis, their financial commitment to population activities. Countries should consider the possibilities for the reduction of military expenditure, and for channelling the savings towards socially productive uses, including funding of development and related population activities. Governments, intergovernmental institutions and non-governmental organizations are urged to consider a significant increase in their development assistance allocated for population activities. This increase corresponds to the appeal of the International Forum on Population in the Twenty-First Century which called on the donor community and the international organizations to mobilize additional resources by the year 2000 in favour of population programmes.

Recommendation 64

Governments participating in the European Population Conference commit themselves to the promotion of the objectives and proposals on international cooperation outlined above through their full and active involvement in preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development and at the Conference itself.

F. GENERATION AND UTILIZATION OF POLICY-RELEVANT KNOWLEDGE

Recommendation 65

In the course of formulating and evaluating their population-related policies, Governments are urged to promote and make use of scientific knowledge on the multitude of determinants and consequences of population change. They are advised to allocate increased human and financial resources to the development of a national capability to: (i) collect and process population and related statistics; (ii) conduct research into interrelations among population trends, economic development, social transformation and environmental change; and (iii) make use of research findings in policy decision-making in the population field and related areas.

Recommendation 66

Governments are invited to coordinate, wherever appropriate, their data collection, research and related activities in cooperation with international and regional intergovernmental organizations.

a) Data collection

Recommendation 67

Governments are urged to encourage a more systematic use of existing sources of population statistics, such as population and housing censuses, civil registration systems and population registers, along with sources of related information, e.g. labour force and socio-demographic sample surveys. Countries lacking relevant statistical systems should be encouraged and assisted in the setting up of such systems. In order to greatly enhance policy-relevant population research, governments and statistical agencies are urged to make depersonalized information at the individual and household levels readily accessible to population research organizations, subject to the appropriate confidentiality constraints.

Recommendation 68

National statistical organizations and demographic institutes are encouraged to periodically conduct nationwide specialized sample surveys in order to collect the information required to study the effects of the relevant factors, including policy measures, on demographic processes.

Recommendation 69

To enhance international comparability of population research findings it is recommended that the relevant national data collection efforts, wherever appropriate, be properly coordinated by countries in the region, inter alia, by the development and application of international standards concerning concepts, classification and methods.

b) Research

Recommendation 70

To promote the utilization of policy-related knowledge in the formulation and evaluation of population policies and programmes, Governments are urged to support research, particularly in areas of special relevance to policy making, such as those mentioned in Sections III.A through III.E in these recommendations.

Recommendation 71

In view of similarities in population issues faced by Governments of different countries of the region, national population institutes and related research organizations are urged to increasingly coordinate their research efforts, wherever appropriate, under the auspices of international and regional intergovernmental organizations or professional organizations.

c) Training, education and information

Recommendation 72

Governments, in particular those in transition countries, are urged to develop education and training programmes at undergraduate and graduate levels with a view to providing intermediate and advanced skills in data collection, analysis and research relevant to the formulation, implementation and evaluation of population-related policies and programmes. Governments in donor countries and international organizations are advised to assist developing countries and countries in transition, in training and improving the qualifications of population-related specialists.

Recommendation 73

Governments and international organizations should initiate and support population education and information programmes in order to promote awareness of population issues in the population in general and in specific groups such as politicians, policy makers, journalists and teachers, in particular.

d) Coordination by international organizations

Recommendation 74

International governmental and non-governmental organizations of the countries in the region engaged in the field of international, organized population-related research, data collection and statistics are urged to develop a cooperative programme in these fields that ensures a systematic, comprehensive, international comparative monitoring and early-warning system of important population-related socio-economic developments within the whole region, while avoiding costly and inefficient duplication and overlapping.

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Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

PREPARATIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE

Second Amman Declaration on Population and Development in the Arab World adopted at the Arab Population Conference, Amman, Jordan, 4-8 April 1993

Note by the Secretary-General of the Conference

1. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1991/93 of 26 July 1991, invited the regional commissions to convene meetings or conferences to review experience gained in population policies and programmes in their regions as part of their contribution to the preparatory activities for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development.

2. The Arab Population Conference, jointly organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the League of Arab States and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), was held at Amman, Jordan, from 4 to 8 April 1993. Annexed to the present document, in the languages of submission only, is the Second Amman Declaration on Population and Development in the Arab World, which was adopted at that Conference.

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* E/CONF.84/PC/3/Rev.1.

Annex

SECOND AMMAN DECLARATION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE ARAB WORLD, ADOPTED AT THE ARAB POPULATION CONFERENCE, HELD AT AMMAN FROM 4 TO 8 APRIL 1993*

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* Circulated in the languages of submission only.

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INTRODUCTION

The Arab world is contributing to the common efforts of the countries of the developing world in the quest for a cultural renaissance aimed at establishing the requirements of socio-economic development and enabling the Arab people to participate in the shaping of their destiny on their land now and in the future within a framework of justice, democracy and respect for human rights and to contribute to the endeavours of the international community to achieve peace, progress and prosperity.

In its efforts to achieve these goals, the Arab world is experiencing socio-economic changes and facing challenges, problems and dangers which make it necessary to mobilize the efforts, capabilities and potential of society and to satisfy the basic needs of the population within the framework of development.

In this connection, the last decade witnessed a decline in oil revenues, on which the Arab world depends heavily, the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq War and the Gulf War, and continued tension in the region as a result of the failure to reach a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Furthermore, the external debt crisis was exacerbated in a large number of Arab countries, producing its own effects and pressures. In addition, the world economic recession of the last decade and the tendency to create large economic blocs have adversely affected the Arab countries, as indicated by the decline of Arab export prices, the problem of the trend towards protectionism, fluctuations in exchange and interest rates in international money markets, return migration and the decrease in private remittances.

The population question constitutes a primary factor with dimensions interlinked with the various challenges and dangers. During the last four decades, the Arab region has undergone tremendous demographic changes, the most significant of which was remarkable population growth. The population of the Arab world increased from about 132 million in 1974 to about 237 million in 1992, a figure expected to reach 449 million in 2020 (according to United Nations estimates). All this has led and will lead to increased resource and environmental challenges.

This rapid and continuous increase in the population has necessitated the formulation of the requisite plans and policies to meet needs in regard to employment opportunities, education, health, housing, food and public services. The region has also witnessed a huge movement of labour among its various countries and also to countries outside the region. Consequently, the population question was closely linked to the economic and social aspects of development issues and to the interrelationship between development requirements, on the one hand, and the environment and the outside world, on the other.

In order to express the Arab point of view on the population question within the context of the interrelated development concerned with economic, social, cultural and environmental affairs, the Arab Governments welcomed the International Conference on Population and Development, to be held in September 1994 at Cairo. In preparation for that Conference, the Arab Population Conference was held from 4 to 8 April 1993 at Amman in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

For all the assistance and support rendered in regard to programmes, policies and projects in the field of population in the Arab world, the participants in the Conference extend their gratitude and appreciation to the Arab Governments, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the League of Arab States, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and all the international and regional bodies concerned with population issues. The participants also wish to express their gratitude and appreciation to the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for generously hosting the Arab Population Conference and for providing it with so much support and assistance.

On the basis of the principles, objectives and orientations that emerged at the Arab Population Conference with regard to population questions, the participating Arab delegations adopt the following declaration.

I. PREAMBLE

The Arab Population Conference,

Adhering to the Charter of the League of Arab States and the statutes of its specialized organizations and councils, as well as to the principles, objectives and policies set forth in pan-Arab and sectoral instruments and strategies,

Recalling the provisions of the Charter of Arab Economic Action adopted by the Arab kings and heads of State at the Eleventh Arab Summit Conference held at Amman in 1980, expressing their conviction that Arab men and women were both the instrument and the objective of development,

Adhering to the Charter of the United Nations, which seeks to promote humanitarian causes, guarantee human freedoms and needs and provide the basic requirements and conditions for a better life for mankind as a whole,

Recognizing the importance of achieving Arab comprehensive development that will satisfy the needs and aspirations of present generations, without jeopardizing the rights and aspirations of future generations, by mobilizing Arab resources, developing productive forces and satisfying the social needs, both material and moral, of the Arab person in the light of modern patterns of development appropriate for and protective of the environment,

Convinced that the Arab region, given its great human, natural and financial resources, as well as the elements of homogeneity of the Arab countries, namely language, heritage, common history, common destiny, and geographical location, possesses great potential for numerous forms of cooperation, coordination and joint Arab action in various development fields,

Believing that a just peace is an essential requirement for the realization of comprehensive development,

Believing also that the continued occupation by Israel of Arab territories constitutes an insurmountable obstacle to the achievement and maintenance of such peace,

Acknowledging the right of the Arab nation to live in security in its homeland and the right of each of its peoples to live in freedom, security and peace of mind in their respective countries,

Affirming the right of the Palestinian Arab people to rid themselves of the occupation and to establish their own independent State on their national soil and to resist such practices as settlement, expulsion, deportation, detention, repression, environmental destruction, dissipation of resources and denial of basic human rights, all of which obstruct their progress towards the realization of comprehensive development, and also affirming the rights of the Palestinian refugees to return to their homeland pursuant to the relevant United Nations resolutions,

Acknowledging the influence of international economic relations on comprehensive development in the Arab States, particularly in the light of the termination of the cold war and the emergence of radical changes in the international order, and in recognition of the importance of equitable interdependence in such relations, and of the need to enhance and develop those relations to serve the goals of development and socio-economic progress in the various parts of the world,

Recognizing that the realization of Arab comprehensive development--given the need to take human development into careful consideration--will require that a balance be struck between the rights of the individual and society, bearing in mind that the success of the development process depends largely on the prevalence of an appropriate external climate,

Believing in the ability of the Arab person, enjoying democracy, social equality and human rights, and given objective conditions favourable to progress and effectiveness in development efforts, to confront the challenges and dangers facing the Arab world,

Acknowledging that the creation of those objective conditions requires a comprehensive evaluation of past development efforts and their achievements, and particularly an evaluation of human development efforts and of population conditions and policies in the countries of the Arab world in accordance with the development strategies adopted by Arab States and in Arab and international instruments,

Conscious that the past decade witnessed commendable efforts in population policies and human development in the Arab world, although those efforts fell short of the aspirations expressed in the Amman Declaration on Population in the Arab World adopted by the Regional Population Conference in the Arab World held from 25 to 29 March 1984,

Convinced that the countries of the Arab world have witnessed many new developments and changes over the past 10 years, which necessitated the formulation of comprehensive population policies integrated with overall Arab development in its various dimensions during the coming decade,

Aware that, in spite of the varying priorities of population policies from one Arab State to another, there is a need to formulate a clearly defined

Arab population strategy to ensure optimal utilization and distribution of human resources, integrated into development,

Believing that the Pan-Arab perspective can serve as a significant approach when addressing population issues and challenges in the Arab world,

Recognizing the importance of cultural and religious dimensions in determining population behaviour patterns,

Pursuant to the provisions of the World Population Plan of Action (Bucharest, 1974) and the recommendations of the Mexico Conference of 1984 designed to promote a more intensive and rapid implementation of that Plan, as well as the provisions of the World Conference on Women (Nairobi, 1985), the World Declaration on Children issued by the World Summit on Childhood (New York, 1990) and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992),

Pursuant also to the Amman Declaration on Population in the Arab World (1984), the Arab Declaration on Environment, Development and Future Prospects (Cairo, 1991), the Arab Plan for the Protection, Care and Development of Childhood (Tunis, 1992) and the resolutions of specialized Arab ministerial meetings, and on the basis of the achievements of the Arab world in the light of the principles and objectives contained in all those instruments,

Invoking United Nations resolutions (General Assembly resolution 47/176 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 93/1991, 37/1992 and 4/1993) concerning the convening of the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 5-13 September 1994) which emphasize that the question of population and sustained economic growth and sustainable development will constitute the overall topics of the Conference,

II. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Firmly establishes the following general principles for population policies:

1. Human development is the starting point of development efforts aimed at achieving a satisfactory quality of life in the Arab world, with all that this implies by way of socio-economic progress, justice, democracy and protection of human rights.

2. The family is the basic unit of society and it is therefore necessary to create all the appropriate conditions needed to preserve its integrity, raise its standard of living, protect its values and cohesion and provide its members with opportunities for a decent life.

3. Women, like men, play a crucial role in society. They do so not only as mothers but as essential factors in resource management, economic activity and national development. Development cannot be realized without ensuring women's participation therein, improving women's quality of life in all its aspects and securing the economic, social, educational, cultural, psychological and health conditions needed to enable them to play their role fully as citizens.

4. Children have a basic right to a healthy, happy and secure life through the provision of health care, modern education and other appropriate services and conditions.

5. The population issue is closely interrelated with socio-economic changes, the cultural environment and the political framework, and hence with the development process. Population variables are determined by the broader social environment, and the social, economic, cultural, political and environmental components of the actual conditions dictate the attitudes of individuals towards population dynamics, thereby determining population dimensions. Population variables, in turn, affect those dimensions at the national, regional and international levels.

6. An integrated approach to the population issue requires consideration of its various dimensions, such as population size and structure, growth rates, geographical distribution, national and pan-Arab security and other characteristics, as well as recognition of the fact that these dimensions interact and, consequently, should not be treated separately as isolated aspects in any population policy; it should also be recognized that these population dimensions are influenced by the processes of reproduction, mortality and internal and external migration.

7. In view of the special conditions in the Arab territories under Israeli occupation and the ensuing displacement and forcible migration of their population, the latter's population problems need to be addressed from a special perspective which gives priority to those dimensions that relate to steadfastness, national security, political considerations and the need to counter the aggressive demographic schemes of the occupation authorities.

8. One of the basic human rights recognized in the 1974 World Population Plan of Action is the right of couples to choose freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children. To enable them to exercise this right, they must have access to the necessary education, information and services. Present and future demand for family planning must be met. The Arab States should be called upon, regardless of their stand on population growth, to provide for family planning services as a basic human right of couples.

9. The Arab States which adopt a policy of modifying population growth rates should integrate population policies into the framework of national development plans.

10. Arab sustainable development depends on the levels of economic growth and social progress, including diversification of productive capacities and higher rates of production through reliance on the optimal rational utilization of material and human resources, as well as the development and use of environmentally safe technology; it takes environmental considerations into account in planning operations and in economic policies with a view to improving the quality of life for the present generations, without jeopardizing the rights of future generations, as well as achieving equitable distribution, creating job opportunities and satisfying the basic material and moral needs of Arab men and women.

11. Effective measures to overcome current population problems in the Arab world through diligent efforts to achieve development will be severely affected by the increasingly rapid and radical changes that have taken place on the world stage in recent years and which necessitate the adoption of a collective self-reliance strategy within the Arab world, as well as close cooperation with the developing countries. They also necessitate diligent efforts to change the status of the Arab economy in the present world economy with a view to attaining further self-reliance, mutual equitable interdependence and active and positive involvement in international economic relations.

12. Since some economic and social conditions in many Arab countries interact strongly with population problems, reforms are needed to rectify those conditions and the imbalances that they reflect. However, these reforms have economic and social dimensions that differ from one Arab country to another, and special attention must therefore be paid to the social effects of those reforms, disregard of which would be detrimental to human development as one of the kingpins of sustainable development.

13. Since the Arab economy forms part of the world economy and is affected by the changes and disruptions to which the latter is prone, there is a need to promote forms of inter-Arab and Arab-international cooperation, as well as endeavours to overcome international problems and restructure the world economy in such a way as to ensure greater North-South balance and equality in order to improve terms of trade.

14. The mounting indebtedness of some Arab countries tends to obstruct the implementation of population policies and programmes. Therefore, efforts should be made, in coordination with the creditor countries, to devise appropriate formulas for the rescheduling of debt servicing, particularly that of an inter-Arab nature, for purposes of investment for the benefit of these policies and programmes.

15. The industrialized countries are called upon to adopt policies aimed at the achievement of a better balance between the population size and resources of this planet by reducing the huge expenditures on armament and curbing excessive consumerism, which is squandering the resources of the entire world. They are also called upon to adopt more effective orientations in an effort to conserve resources, protect the environment and achieve a higher level of well-being for all mankind.

16. The population problems in the Arab countries might appear less acute if viewed from a pan-Arab perspective. This requires the formulation of an Arab population policy based on current conditions. It should seek solutions to population problems in each individual country within a comprehensive development framework. Such a policy should constitute a pan-Arab framework for the population policies of individual Arab countries.

17. Population growth is a factor in socio-economic development. Accordingly, population policies should be formulated not on an individual basis but rather within the context of an integrated development policy. Account should be taken of the periods of time needed to influence population variables. Population growth policies should therefore be based on the economic, social, cultural and health situation in each country.

18. A spirit of democracy, collective endeavour and individual initiative should be promoted and fostered in the life of the Arab person by respecting his will and his creative capacities under appropriate laws and legislation that ensure protection of his achievements and respect for his human dignity and rights.

III. OBJECTIVES

In the light of the preceding preamble and general principles, the Conference establishes the following objectives:

19. The formulation and implementation of integrated population policies, programmes and activities in the Arab countries within the framework of development efforts aimed at:

(a) Achieving appropriate population growth rates through provision of the services needed to attain national policy goals. In the case of countries wishing to reduce their population growth rates, this requires provision of the services needed to develop and enhance family planning and family protection services, including maternal and child health care, and the formulation of economic, social, health and education policies to help create the requisite climate in which couples will accept and react to these objectives;

(b) Reducing mortality rates to the lowest possible level, especially maternal, child and infant mortality;

(c) Reaching a geographical distribution of the population in keeping with the requirements of development and healthy environment by rationalizing urban growth and paying attention to rural areas in order to improve the quality of life.

20. The establishment of general principles to coordinate the population policies of the Arab countries, and the provision of the means for their implementation and monitoring. Endeavours should also be made to implement Arab agreements regulating the movement of labour among the Arab countries in such a way as to ensure maximum developmental benefits for both the Arab countries of origin and the Arab host countries, and grant priority to Arab labour in the latter.

21. Efforts should be made to counter the methods that Israel is employing to violate human rights, impose forced migration on the Palestinian Arab people and disrupt the natural course of life in the occupied Lebanese territories and in the occupied Golan Heights in the Syrian Arab Republic.

22. The granting of high priority to human development through an enhancement of population characteristics in the context of population policy and its developmental aspects. Care should also be taken to meet the needs in regard to nutrition, health care, the eradication of illiteracy, the provision of means of education and endeavours to combat unemployment. There is a need to ensure a more equitable distribution of income, to combat poverty and to provide basic commodities and public services. Efforts should be made to

enhance the situation and status of women and improve child welfare, care of the disabled, arrangements for grass-roots participation and the protection of democracy and human rights.

23. To further sound religious orientations and understanding of population issues in general, and of the spacing of births in particular.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

In the light of the principles set forth in this Declaration, and with a view to achieving the objectives contained herein, the Conference calls upon the Governments of the Arab States to observe the following guidelines:

A. Human development and its relationship to development

24. Population policies should be formulated within the framework of a comprehensive strategy for development, paying due regard to the mutual interaction among them.

25. Special attention should be paid to human development and the necessary resources should be allocated to its achievement in a manner consistent with population policies, since human development is an objective in itself. Resources should be allocated to achieve human development, especially in social sectors such as health, education, training, housing and healthy environment.

26. Regional non-governmental organizations and the private sector should be encouraged to play an increasing role in the achievement of population objectives and to contribute to the implementation of population policies.

27. Human development should be viewed as relating to human requirements, activities and aspirations, including production and distribution, culture and the arts, enjoyment of democracy, protection of human rights and participation by all male and female members of society in decision making.

28. Regard should be shown for considerations of justice and equal opportunity for the present and future generations and the right of each of them to enjoy the resources of the Arab world. This requires the ongoing development of such resources in a manner that meets the needs of the present generations without diminishing the possibility of meeting the needs of future generations: the welfare of the present generations should not be based on additional economic and environmental loans to be repaid by future generations.

29. The Palestinian people should be enabled to recover their freedom and sovereignty over their natural resources so that they can not only formulate a population policy in keeping with its national interests and consistent with their development aspirations but also implement real development projects, stressing their need for international protection.

B. Population, environment and development

30. There is a need for a more thorough understanding of the interrelationship between population, resources, environment and development. The conduct of

further research should therefore be encouraged with a view to developing such understanding, as well as new conceptual frameworks and appropriate analytical tools and indicators, and exchanging the findings of such research.

31. Data and information networks on environmental, population and development variables should be established to facilitate the decision-making needed for the achievement of compatibility among these variables within each individual Arab country. An Arab programme should be prepared to link these networks for the purpose of coordinating common population, environment and development issues among the Arab countries.

32. The environmental effects of new projects and activities must be examined as a basic components of the evaluation study of these projects and activities so that the phenomenon of worldwide industrial relocation does not lead to a concentration of pollutant industries in the third world, of which the Arab countries form part.

33. Pan-Arab development policies should be formulated to meet present needs, without prejudicing the ability of future generations to meet their needs. There is a need to speed up the implementation of the Arab sustainable development programmes approved by the Council of Arab Ministers for Environmental Affairs in 1991, the aim of which is to address the various environmental and natural resource issues in the Arab world, particularly land degradation and measures to combat all forms of environmental pollution.

34. Pan-Arab plans should be formulated to ensure the rational use of land, water and other resources and prevent their depletion and deterioration in order to promote human well-being.

35. Measures should be taken to combat poverty and unemployment and to improve the quality of life in urban and rural environments and industrial areas. Special priority should be accorded to the implementation of low-income housing schemes, the provision of clean water and sanitation in densely populated areas and the adoption of appropriate technologies to that end.

36. National non-governmental organizations should be involved in the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes in the field of population, development and environmental protection. These organizations should be given material, technical and administrative support, and their relations with official government institutions and international and Arab organizations in connection with the various development programmes and services that they undertake should be coordinated.

37. The Arab person should be protected through the promulgation of legislation and the adoption of the measures needed to prevent the use of the coastal land and territorial waters of the countries of the Arab region as a dumping ground for toxic wastes from the industrialized countries. Such dumping should be regarded as a violation of the principles of international relations, which call for respect for ethical concepts in such relations. Appropriate national control bodies should be established to monitor this matter in order to limit its long-term detrimental effects on individuals and the environment.

38. Efforts should be made to counter the policies of settlement, confiscation of land, demolition of houses, restriction of building permits, seizure of water resources, burial of dangerous wastes and cutting down of trees, which Israel has been pursuing in the occupied Palestinian territories since 1967.

C. Population distribution and urbanization

39. Special attention should be paid to policies aimed at improving the quality of life in rural areas by promoting the economic, social and environmental dimensions of integrated rural development endeavours in such a way as to achieve population stability in these areas and curb rural-urban migration.

40. Facilities for production and life in small and medium-sized urban areas should be promoted in such a way as to secure the continued economic and social vitality of these areas, enable them to retain their populations and provide them with opportunities for development and population stability.

41. New sites for production should be located, whenever possible, away from present densely populated areas, within the framework of country planning, in order to achieve a better distribution of the population in the geographical area of the Arab countries and to achieve equitable and harmonious regional development.

42. Greater endeavours should be made to obtain reliable data on population movements, on factors associated therewith and on population needs through population censuses, socio-demographic surveys on migration and special migration and area studies.

43. Studies should be undertaken for the purpose of understanding the factors and motives underlying internal migration with a view to planning, implementing and evaluating population distribution programmes.

D. International migration

44. The Arab States should coordinate and cooperate in planning Arab labour mobility among them in order to maximize the benefit to both the sending States and the receiving States, giving consideration to the accordance of priority to the employment of Arab labour and endeavouring to implement bilateral and multilateral Arab agreements in this regard.

45. The Arab labour-sending countries should diligently endeavour to provide employment opportunities by diversifying their sources of production and formulating training and development plans and programmes to promote stability of their labour force in its country of origin.

46. There is a need to protect the human rights of Arab migrant workers and their families in the labour-sending and labour-receiving countries.

47. There is a need for international support for development endeavours in the labour-sending Arab countries in order to help to curb labour migration, particularly informal migration.

48. All possible Arab and international action and measures should be taken to put an end to hostile behaviour towards Arab migrants, particularly Maghrebis, to safeguard all their workers' and human rights and to regulate their situation within the context of the Euro-Arab dialogue.

49. Endeavours should be made to facilitate the integration of returning Arab labour in their societies of origin, to solve their problems and to integrate them in productive and social activity in their new areas of residence in such a way as to enhance their contribution to national development endeavours.

50. All ways and means should be adopted to protect migrants, refugees and persons forced to move by upheavals and wars, especially women and children. International support should be extended to the receiving countries in order to accommodate them until such time as they return to their home countries, especially if the host countries are among the least developed countries, with a view to easing the resulting burden placed upon them.

51. Arab and international cooperation plans and programmes should be formulated to support the Arab States that are suffering from the problem of an influx of refugees from neighbouring States.

52. Specialized studies on international migration should pay due regard to national priorities. Regional and international donors are called upon to support surveys, research and policies concerning external migration in the Arab countries in view of the developmental significance of such migration. The earlier recommendations concerning the need to provide the requisite support for the conduct of a world migration survey, along the lines of the world fertility survey, are reaffirmed.

53. The requisite Arab measures should be taken to secure the immediate cessation of all inhuman Israeli practices against the Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese peoples, particularly those involving forced migration, deportation and violations of human rights.

54. Endeavours should be made to halt Jewish immigration aimed at bringing about radical changes in the region, including disruption of the demographic balance, as these changes constitute a direct and indirect danger to the occupied Arab territories through the intensification of settlement operations and exploitation of the resources of these territories for the benefit of the new immigrants; they also constitute a destablizing factor in the region.

55. International and Arab support should be provided for the Palestinian national economy in the occupied territories to help end its dependence on the Israeli economy; the productive sectors should be encouraged; Israeli exploitation of the markets of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip should be limited; the exploitation of workers from the West Bank and Gaza forced by deteriorating economic conditions in the occupied territories to work in the various economic sectors within Israel should also be limited.

E. Women, population and development

56. In view of the crucial importance of the role and status of women in development and their effects on demographic behaviour, age at marriage,

fertility, and infant, child and maternal mortality rates, policies and programmes should seek to improve the status of women as one of the goals of national development plans.

57. The Arab States that have not yet ratified the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women are called upon to ratify and implement that Convention in a manner consistent with their domestic legislation. Efforts should also be made to develop legislation to improve the situation of women, particularly in regard to relations within the family, employment, social security, health insurance, pensions, maternity leave, appointments, job promotion opportunities and education, etc. Distinction should be made between mistaken social ideas and the accurate understanding of religion.

58. The reproductive role of women should in no way be used as a reason for limiting women's right to work, education and participation in public life.

59. Policies and programmes should be formulated to help to:

(a) Ensure the contribution of Arab women in regard to work in the various societal activities, at all levels in order to promote equality between women and men and provide the conditions and services that are conducive to such contribution;

(b) Increase the economic potential of women by providing them with opportunities for education, training, literacy programmes and employment in the various production sectors;

(c) Promote the participation of women in public life at all levels, including decision making;

(d) Provide an opportunity for women to exercise an informed choice regarding birth control and facilitate their access to the services necessary for that exercise.

60. There is a need to adopt programmes that accord priority to rural women, and the Arab countries should be urged to monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women held at Geneva in 1992.

61. Efforts should be made, at the country and regional levels and through specialized centres, to establish an adequate database concerning the various aspects of the life of Arab women in order to facilitate research and in-depth studies to identify the everyday problems and difficulties with which they are faced, with a view to the formulation of policies and programmes conducive to the solution of such problems and difficulties and to the enhancement of their status and quality of life.

62. Support should be given to national non-governmental organizations, women's federations and associations concerned with women, population and development in order to help them to play their role in enhancing women's awareness so that they can contribute to development and participate in all spheres of life. Support should also be given to programmes of research,

studies and training concerning women and their role in development. Use should be made of Arab training and research centres for women, the activities of which should also be coordinated.

F. Maternal and child health and family planning

63. Programmes relating to maternal and child health (MCH) and family planning should be designed in such a way as to ensure:

(a) Acceptance of the question of family planning, in its broad sense, as a right of couples within the framework of its role in enhancing the various aspects of family health;

(b) The integration of family planning services into other family health services, including the expansion and streamlining of a system for the provision of MCH and family planning services, as well as health education programmes, within the framework of primary health care.

64. In Arab countries where fertility levels are high:

(a) Efforts should be made to set appropriate fertility and family planning targets consistent with the development goals of each country;

(b) Health and nutrition education activities related to MCH and family planning should be strengthened;

(c) The quality and accessibility of family planning services should be improved by arrangements for well-trained persons to respond to the needs of the beneficiaries and offer a wide choice of family planning services in keeping with the broader reproductive health needs of the population, including prenatal and postnatal care;

(d) The provision of an appropriate socio-economic environment for the achievement of reproduction rates consistent with the desired population growth rates.

65. There is a need to formulate and implement appropriate programmes to lower infant, child and maternal mortality rates.

66. Programmes should take full advantage of the potential contributions of NGOs, including women's NGOs, so that they can continue to support national programmes in the fields of MCH and family planning. In particular, greater use should be made of the resources, experience and expertise of local non-governmental organizations in order to strengthen their role. There is also a need to actively advocate the use of their services and improve the availability, social acceptability and effectiveness of family planning services.

67. Issues concerning Arab children should be accorded priority in development plans and the availability of child services should be increased, including health, nutrition and education services. Measures should also be taken to combat the phenomena of child labour and school drop-outs and public awareness programmes should be formulated to counter the phenomenon of sexual discrimination.

68. Information, education and communication (IEC) programmes should include MCH and family planning messages, with particular emphasis on the following:

(a) Agricultural extension programmes;
(b) Activities of professional and trade unions, cooperatives, etc.;
(c) Women's programmes and federations;
(d) Youth programmes for both sexes;
(e) Sexual and mental health programmes.

69. There is a need to upgrade management information systems (MIS), so that they can provide timely and high-quality information, and to adopt suitable strategies for the use of comprehensive, rapid and low-cost surveys for the purposes of appropriate monitoring and evaluation programmes. There is also a need for appropriate training to ensure the proper use of such information by MCH service providers and instructors.

70. Concerted efforts should be made to undertake relevant research on the improvement of reproductive and mental health and to put the findings of such research into practice through their incorporation in ongoing policies and programmes. There is a particular need to promote research on the socio-cultural factors that influence fertility and associated factors related to the use of methods of contraception and their incorporation in preventive health and MCH programmes in a manner consistent with socio-cultural and administrative conditions.

71. There should be closer inter-Arab cooperation in the manufacture, promotion and distribution of family planning aids. Use should be made of the experience gained by the Arab countries that have played a pioneering role in this field.

72. There is a need to relieve the sufferings of Palestinian families in the occupied territories, which are directly attributable to the practices of the Israeli occupation authorities and which have led to a deterioration in the standard of public health, a lack of MCH and family protection programmes and high mortality rates, particularly among infants and children.

G. Information, education and communication (IEC)

73. IEC programmes in the field of population should become basic components of national education and information systems.

74. IEC messages and curricula should be socially rooted and readily acceptable to the various population target groups, particularly in rural areas. Hence, these programmes and materials should be based on the results and findings of field research aimed at determining the values, attitudes and behavioural patterns needed to define the objectives and contents of effective IEC programmes and activities in the field of population.

75. IEC programmes should be designed within the framework of an integrated approach so that they can play a major role in facilitating the understanding of women's issues in order for women to make an informed choice regarding birth control and gain access to the requisite aids therefore, and also in promoting the status of women and their full participation in population and development affairs.

76. Population education should be more fully incorporated in all stages of formal and informal education with a view to stimulating awareness of population and development issues and promoting positive attitudes and rational behaviour among the target groups in regard to such issues, thereby achieving a balance between population and available material resources at the household and community levels.

77. When formulating and designing population communication programmes, due regard should be shown for the principle of integration and harmonization, i.e. the need to coordinate these programmes with a view to achieving their objectives in a manner consistent with their different materials, concepts and contents relating to the issues of population and development.

78. It is important to ensure the availability of human resources capable of playing their roles in IEC population programmes, which requires the training of personnel in this domain.

H. The role of national non-governmental organizations in the achievement of development

79. In view of the substantial Arab non-governmental contribution to development over the past two decades, and in the light of the growing Arab and international interest in the role of national non-governmental organizations in development, the Conference stresses the need to:

(a) Promote Arab coordination among national non-governmental organizations active in the field of population in the Arab countries and enable them to participate in country and pan-Arab programmes through the establishment of the requisite technical structures for that purpose;

(b) Strengthen the role of Arab national non-governmental organizations, as partners, in order to enable them to support and supplement government efforts to implement the Second Amman Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development in the Arab World;

(c) Invite Arab and international financing bodies and funds to provide financial support for projects implemented by Arab national non-governmental organizations in the field of population, environment and development;

(d) Invite international financing organizations, the United Nations, the European Community and international and regional agencies, bodies and funds to provide financial and technical support for Arab national non-governmental organizations and encourage their participation in regional and international meetings and conferences;

(e) Encourage the endeavours and initiatives that are being undertaken in the Arab region with a view to coordinating cooperation and interlinkage among Arab national non-governmental organizations between them, on the one hand, and official and popular bodies and regional and international organizations and agencies, on the other hand;

(f) Encourage the participation of representatives of national non-governmental organizations in official delegations to national, Arab and international conferences in view of the positive results of such participation;

(g) Support and finance training programmes and projects for the administrative and institutional development of Arab national non-governmental organizations, with a view to enhancing the performance of such organizations on an effective scientific basis.

I. Special categories

80. Special attention should be directed towards juveniles and young people through the provision of education, contemporary culture, arts, sports, and all forms of social welfare to protect them from falling prey to the dangers of addiction, violence and extremism. Young people should be provided with employment opportunities to combat unemployment among them.

81. Particular care and attention should be given to talented individuals through the formulation of special programmes to develop their potential in various fields.

82. Special protection should be afforded to special groups such as orphans, the homeless, foundlings, victims of disasters and wars and juvenile delinquents.

83. Special care should be given to elderly and aged men and women, and efforts should be made to facilitate their access to health and social services. The role played by the family and local community institutions in this regard should be intensified.

84. The population of the Arab world, particularly mothers, children, the elderly, and the sick should not be subjected to any negative or inhuman effects, contrary to human rights, as a result of political or any other decisions.

85. Special policies should be formulated to cater for the welfare and rehabilitation of disabled members of the population, including provision of the resources required for health infrastructure and personnel and of the appliances and equipment needed to enhance their quality of life and integrate them in society.

J. Structural adjustment and population policies

86. In order to unleash development forces, including manpower, it will be necessary to pay special attention to raising real economic growth rates, correcting structural imbalances in the Arab States and formulating appropriate policies with due regard for the maintenance of a balance between country-specific economic, demographic, and social considerations.

87. The adjustment policies applied by some Arab States are having recessionary and other detrimental consequences, such as a reduction in public spending on social services and abolition of subsidies, which have had adverse

effects on human development, increased unemployment and lowered the standard of living. Therefore, economic policy should focus on giving priority to social services, particularly in the field of health and education. The cost of such policies must also be distributed among all social categories and groups, in accordance with their respective ability to bear such costs and with due regard for the principle of social justice and for the circumstances of each Arab State. Population development policies must be consistent with adjustment policies in order to avoid any increase in the adverse effects of adjustment.

88. The Arab world possesses enormous potential resources, material and non-material, which could be used for purposes of economic reform and sustainable development through inter-Arab cooperation in order to alleviate the burdens resulting from structural adjustment policies and achieve human development.

K. Data, research, exchange of information and training

89. Efforts should be made to develop an integrated system of population censuses, civil registration procedures, household surveys, in-depth studies and other related sources of data with a view to providing high-quality and timely information for population policies and monitoring, supporting national agencies responsible for the provision of such data. The Arab States should be called upon to undertake periodic population censuses on the understanding that expertise and support will be provided by regional and international sources to those countries lacking the material and technical means to achieve that end.

90. The availability of the technical skills needed for the collection, processing and analysis of population data must be ensured. In this connection, efforts should be intensified to train and upgrade national technical capabilities at all levels in order to achieve maximum benefit from the utilization and application of modern data-management technologies.

91. Research programmes should be undertaken and coordinated to study the principal population issues and their relationship with environment and development. In particular, heavy emphasis should be placed on the promotion of specialized research on population measures and policies. The Arab States should be urged to attach high priority to population research, to provide material and technical support for country and pan-Arab statistical agencies, and to establish, support and strengthen population research centres.

92. The establishment and maintenance of modern database systems, both numerical and bibliographic, should be encouraged at the country and regional levels in order to disseminate population data and information more efficiently and effectively and to ensure coordination among them.

93. There is a need to encourage the exchange of technical expertise and visits among national governmental and non-governmental parties engaged in research, training and programmes relating to population activities in the Arab countries.

94. Endeavours to standardize the definitions and terminology used in population research in the Arab world should be supported in order to ensure data comparability.

95. The Palestinian people should be enabled to undertake a general population and housing census in the occupied territories and to establish a national statistical department there in view of the inaccuracy of Israeli statistics.

L. Arab and international cooperation

96. International cooperation within the framework of the United Nations system has to continue to provide technical and financial support for population activities to assist the Arab States in their efforts to achieve population and development goals.

97. ESCWA and the League of Arab States are called upon to increase and expand the scope of their contributions to a closer understanding of Arab population issues and to promote regional cooperation in the field of population.

98. Support should be given to UNFPA to enable it to play a leading and effective role in providing assistance in the field of population policies, programmes and projects in the broader sense. States Members of the United Nations are invited to make financial contributions to UNFPA in a manner commensurate with the increasing needs of population projects.

99. UNFPA is requested to intensify its support for population programmes and activities in the Arab region through bilateral and regional mechanisms in order to:

(a) Expand and enhance its technical cooperation programmes with each Arab country, especially the least developed among them, with a view to helping them to address their population problems, deal with the causes of those problems and implement their population policies effectively;

(b) Intensify its cooperation with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the Economic Commission for Africa, and the League of Arab States in order to support their ongoing endeavours to implement regional population programmes and projects;

(c) Maintain and increase its efforts to provide technical support for national population programmes and projects through the newly-established Country Support Team/Regional Office for the Arab States;

(d) Resume its activities in Lebanon and finance population activities as part of the process of reconstruction, including data collection and the preparation of population studies and policies aimed at restoring normal life in Lebanon;

(e) Support the efforts of those countries that have achieved good results in the field of population policies, in order to enable them to continue the implementation of their programmes and safeguard their achievements in this field;

100. International and Arab organizations should support the efforts of regional training centres and should utilize their expertise and capabilities.

101. Donor States, international financial institutions and non-governmental organizations are urged to mobilize additional resources to assist the Arab countries in achieving their national population goals, particularly in the least developed Arab countries, since the emerging population issues in the region will become more diverse and complex in the coming decade. Every effort should be made to reach the target of $US 9 billion for world-wide population activities from all sources--domestic and international--by the year 2000.

102. Emphasis should be placed on the role of Arab funds in financing country and regional projects and research relating to population activities within the framework of the development plans of the Arab countries and joint Arab action, as well as the role of those funds in supporting research and training institutions in the fields of population statistics and planning.

103. The Arab States are called upon to formulate plans and programmes based on the present Declaration and to establish a mechanism for their implementation, monitoring and evaluation. In order to achieve that, emphasis is placed on the need for the provision of technical and material services by UNFPA, ESCWA, the League of Arab States, Arab and international funds and other Arab and international federations and financial institutions.

104. Support should be given to the endeavours of the secretariat of the League of Arab States in the field of population surveys and studies. Its coordinating role among Arab bodies active in the field of population should be strengthened and its activities should be supported in order to enable it to meet the needs of joint Arab action in the field of population and to continue its monitoring and implementation of the recommendations of the Arab Population Conference.

105. Support should be given to the endeavours of ESCWA in socio-economic development fields, particularly in regard to population issues. Arab and international funds, and especially UNFPA, are invited to provide ESCWA with the support required to enable it to play its role fully in the field of population.

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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE
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POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT
Second session
10-21 May 1993
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

PREPARATIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE

Latin American and Caribbean Consensus on Population and Development, adopted at the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Conference on Population and Development, Mexico City, 29 April-4 May 1993

Note by the Secretary-General of the Conference

1. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1991/93 of 26 July 1991, invited the regional commissions to convene meetings or conferences to review experience gained in population policies and programmes in their regions as part of their contribution to the preparatory activities for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development.

2. The Latin American and Caribbean Regional Conference on Population and Development, jointly organized by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), was held at Mexico City from 29 April to 4 May 1993. Annexed to the present document, in the languages of submission, is the Latin American and Caribbean Consensus on Population and Development, which was adopted at that Conference.

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Annex

LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN CONSENSUS ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT, ADOPTED AT THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT, HELD AT MEXICO CITY FROM 29 APRIL TO 4 MAY 1993*

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* Circulated in the languages of submission only.

I. THE SITUATION OF POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN IN THE EARLY 1990s

1. The 1974 World Population Conference at Bucharest and the World Population Plan of Action adopted by it represent a historical milestone in the consideration of the population issue at the world level. They stipulated that population policies should help to harmonize demographic trends with development trends, and they formulated important recommendations. At the Latin American and Caribbean level, these ideas began to gain recognition at the 1974 Regional Preparatory Conference at San José, which was followed by other meetings (Mexico City, 1975; Havana, 1983; International Conference on Population at Mexico City in 1984) and meetings such as those of the Committee of High-level Government Experts (CEGAN). It was in this context that country-based institutional frameworks were created to put into practice the recommendations of these meetings, which took the form of population councils or population units in ministries of planning. The Regional Conference on Population and Development at Mexico City in 1993 and the International Conference at Cairo in 1994 offer new opportunities for assessing the progress made and for furthering the debate and organizing future actions.

2. The 1980s represented a period of contrasting economic and social features for most Latin American and Caribbean countries. On the one hand, the region took a giant step backward in terms of real per capita output —which dropped, by the end of 1989, to its lowest level in 13 years— and experienced heavy macroeconomic imbalances and a deterioration of the social context as well. On the other hand, there were also some positive factors: in the realm of politics and institutions, the near-total prevalence of democratic and participatory systems; and in the social and demographic sphere, advances on various fronts, such as improved educational coverage, a decline in infant mortality and changes in reproductive patterns, which brought benefits in terms of maternal and child health. It is noteworthy that in spite of the economic setbacks experienced, there was a more widespread awareness of the need to change production patterns and labour relations to incorporate the region into the new international context. There was also a new sense that false dichotomies, such as those that would pit growth against equity, industry against agriculture, the domestic market against the external market, the State against private agents, or central planning against market forces, could be overcome.

3. Faced with the challenges presented by the crisis of the 1980s, and the difficulty of finding adequate solutions, the Governments have identified actions to promote the well-being of all segments of the population, while at the same time ensuring environmental sustainability in a democratic and participatory framework. The present goal is to change

production patterns as a linchpin for the region to achieve a growing and genuine competitive advantage, with a view to progressively raising productivity and creating prospects for effective equality of opportunity for the whole population. Genuine competitiveness requires social equity, together with increased investment in physical capital and a significant investment in human resources.

4. In this framework, the population issue can be seen from two angles: as a beneficiary of development and as a fundamental agent of the production process. This means that the key component, in addition to the training of human resources, is the latter's quality of life, and hence priority should be given to education, health and job training. The availability of more highly trained human resources is also a contributing factor in reducing the incidence of poverty, by virtue of favouring greater economic growth and offering better opportunities for entry into the workforce for all segments of the population, provided that social policies are strengthened as well in order to reduce prevailing societal inequalities. From this angle, the fast demographic growth rate and high poverty levels make it more difficult for the countries to improve the training and productivity of their labour force.

5. Looking at population as a beneficiary of development strategies, the subject of equity becomes even more relevant as one of the pillars of the relationship between population and development, taking into account the inequalities that exist within countries. The crisis of the 1980s, which exacerbated inequality of access to the fruits of development, has led to a rise in poverty, immersing vast segments of the Latin American and Caribbean population; from the demographic standpoint, this is expressed in differences in morbidity and mortality, particularly among mothers and children, and in territorial mobility and fertility patterns, according to social sectors and ethnic groups. In particular, it has been observed that there is a shortage of family planning programmes adapted to the principles of comprehensive assistance to mothers and children. The meeting of these demands together with others of a social nature (such as health or education), would not only meet the requirement of equity, but would have positive effects on human resources development.

6. One of the most outstanding demographic changes in Latin America and the Caribbean in the past 25 years is the pronounced decline in fertility, from 6 to 3.5 children per woman, which reduced the annual average population growth rate to 2% by the second half of the 1980s. This rate is projected to fall to 1.7% annually in the 1990s. At the same time, advances have been made with respect to mortality, as witnessed by the fact that life expectancy at birth has

increased from 57 to 69 years. These trends have also modified the age structure of the population, accentuating the demographic ageing process, whose effects will be felt in the medium term, in the first phase leading to an increase —in both absolute and relative terms— in the number of people of productive and childbearing age. Currently, the number of people entering the workforce is growing markedly, creating a situation rendered problematic by the prevalence of high unemployment rates among young people. Changes in age structure in many countries pose growing challenges in the areas of health and social security, largely as a result of high growth rates among the elderly population.

7. Added to these trends is the strong urbanization and metropolitanization process that has brought the region —which was predominantly rural in 1950— to its present situation, with 71% of its inhabitants living in urban areas, largely owing to heavy internal migratory flows. Latin America, with less than 10% of the world's population, has four out of its 10 biggest cities. This situation is not identical in all countries of the region, however, as some of them still have rural populations that account for more than 60% of the total.

8. It has been observed that development models thus far have promoted the territorial concentration of economic activities and of the population, with the consequent negative implications for comprehensive economic development and for social and regional equity. The Governments of the region are therefore called upon to ensure that their development strategies take into consideration their effects on territorial distribution, and to adopt measures to correct imbalances in this regard.

9. There is a growing trend towards international population mobility, mainly between the countries of the hemisphere, which is a product of the adjustment process the region is undergoing and of growing disparities between developing and developed countries. This mobility includes, besides the traditional movements of persons at all skill levels seeking better economic conditions, a large contingent of displaced persons and refugees from socio-political conflicts, and others who are returning to their countries of origin, basically motivated by ongoing democratization and pacification processes. However, variations may be observed in these patterns of territorial population mobility, as in the case of the Caribbean countries.

10. Moreover, the full demographic transition occurring in the region does not affect all countries equally. There are sharp contrasts between countries whose women have an average of nearly six children and others where the figure is less than two children; similarly, in some countries, life expectancy at

birth is less than 60 years, while in others it is nearly 75. These differences mean that there are countries whose population is growing at a rate of nearly 3% annually, and others where this rate is less than 1%. Similar and even greater disparities are seen in comparing geographic areas or social groups within countries; these disparities are the result of a lack of social equity which prevents the population from having full, non-discriminatory access to essential services such as education, health care, housing and social security.

11. Another sign of the lack of equity in the region is discrimination directed against women. From a demographic standpoint, this discrimination is reflected primarily in women's difficulty in exercising their reproductive rights - in other words, in the lack of access or options regarding contraceptive methods, mentioned earlier; the fact that women are given sole responsibility by family planning programmes; and the risk of high morbidity and mortality rates associated with pregnancy and childbirth. Special efforts must be made to prevent any lack of equity with respect to women's education and employment status. Consideration must also be given to the specific problems of displaced and refugee women and to violence against women in general.

12. The region is experiencing problems in the linkages between demographic trends, development and the environment in ecosystems in both urban and rural areas. These conflicts manifest themselves with differing degrees of intensity in different countries. Of particular importance is the urban situation, especially in the large metropolises, which are affected by the lack of basic services (water, sewerage, garbage collection) and by water and air pollution resulting from, inter alia, inadequate technologies for their control and insufficient investment in infrastructure, compounded by high urban population growth rates. Rural areas, in turn, suffer from deforestation and soil degradation in areas recently placed under cultivation and also in minifundio areas, where small farmers are forced to overexploit their land.

13. Sustainable development entails sustained economic growth, based on a change in production patterns combined with social policies -such as employment, population, education and health policies- which ensure social equity and place special emphasis on protecting the environment, all in a framework of democracy and respect for individual rights.

14. The formulation of population policies that are integrated with development strategies has been and will continue to be a particularly relevant factor. Despite the achievements in this area, some shortcomings can still be detected: a need for

a more accurate framework to deal with the form and meaning of the interaction between demographic variables and those of socio-economic development; a lack, on the one hand, of technical capacity in those responsible for economic and social planning, and, on the other, of firm political will to regard population as an endogenous variable in development policies, plans and programmes; and a lack of congruence, in some cases, between the objectives of socio-demographic policies and the effect of economic policies, strategies and programmes. In this sense, the State has an important role to play in coordinating the linkages between population and development.

15. External debt and its servicing place a heavy burden on Latin American and Caribbean countries that prevents resources from being allocated for development; specifically, it prevents those countries from giving priority to social programmes aimed at raising the population's standard of living. Consequently, regional consensus-building mechanisms must be created to release resources now used to repay and service debt for the implementation of social development programmes, including those relating to population and development.

16. International cooperation, both financial and technical, has played an important role in the promotion, study, discussion and implementation of population policies and programmes. However, there exists a notable disproportion between the needs and the resources available. Intraregional cooperation, for its part, is an effective instrument for meeting the common needs of different countries and complementing and strengthening country activities.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS

II.1 Population growth and structure

1. Considering that the size, growth and composition of the population have a major impact on development with equity in the countries of the region, Governments are urged to reiterate and put into practice more fully their political commitment to incorporate demographic variables and, in particular, population growth and structure, at their various levels of policy-making and implementation.

2. Recognizing that recent decreases in fertility in most countries of the region will lead to an increase, in the next few decades, in the proportion of persons of working age, and that this will offer new opportunities by reducing the dependency ratio, but at the same time will present challenges with respect to the demand for job creation, Governments are asked to formulate, with the active support of non-governmental organizations and the private sector, training and employment programmes giving primary importance to young people and to persons affected by technological modernization, with a view to using these human resources to meet development targets.

3. Observing that many countries will continue to experience high rates of growth in the number of women of child-bearing age, together with high rates of adolescent fertility and low rates of contraceptive use, Governments are urged to anticipate demands, particularly those pertaining to reproductive health care.

4. Taking into account the demographic changes expected in most of the countries of the region, including a significant increase in the number of elderly persons, it is recommended that policies be adopted to achieve more equity in the distribution of resources among the various age groups in the fields of health care, education, social security and social participation and integration. The ageing process and the consequent high growth of the elderly population, together with the negative effects on this population of adjustment policies and the decline in public spending on social services, it is imperative that steps be taken to develop the institutional mechanisms needed in order to provide social security and health services to this segment of the population, taking into consideration the specific needs of its various age subgroups.

5. Considering that in the short and medium term the population of Latin America and the Caribbean will continue to be relatively young, Governments are urged to strengthen their efforts to provide care for their child and adolescent

populations.

6. Considering the inequality which exists in access to health services, Governments are called upon to assign higher political priority and devote more resources to a more equitable distribution of these services between urban and rural areas and among regions within countries and social and ethnic groups, together with ensuring their equitable distribution by gender and age, thereby attempting to reduce the sharp differences that exist in terms of morbidity, infant and maternal mortality and access to reproductive health services.

7. Recognizing also that national global indicators on population growth and demographic structures are important but often insufficient tools in formulating and implementing policies and programmes, it is recommended that the countries redouble their efforts to take due account of the specific features of various social, ethnic, age and subnational groups, in order to reveal the vast demographic heterogeneity underlying national aggregates and thus be able to apply policies that are appropriate to those realities.

II.2 Population distribution, development and the environment

1. Recognizing the negative aspects of the process of urban concentration, particularly in large metropolitan areas, it is recommended that decentralization of government decision-making be promoted through the participation of regional and local agents.

2. Considering the strong impact of productive development strategies on migratory flows, Governments are called upon, in designing such strategies, to increase the weight of migration-related considerations, in line with national targets for spatial distribution of the population.

3. Considering the depressed situation prevailing in many rural areas, and the consequent lack of employment opportunities and failure to meet basic needs in those areas, which hamper their ability to retain their population, it is recommended that Governments adopt measures to promote rural development in terms of both the location of production structures and the well-being of the population.

4. Noting that socio-political violence has triggered various forms of enforced territorial mobility of the population, Governments are requested to implement measures to protect the affected population, in particular the most vulnerable groups, such as women, the elderly, children, indigenous populations and ethnic minorities. The international community is also called upon to redouble its financial and technical cooperation efforts with a view to ensuring that repatriation and resettlement programmes are not reduced to merely humanitarian aid, but that they contribute to an effective integration of the displaced population into the economic and social development process.

5. Considering that policies and actions related to the environment have an impact on the population's health and spatial distribution, and that, in turn, population policies are linked in various ways with resource management and environmental conservation, Governments are urged to give priority attention to the quest for programmatic congruence between the two types of policies. In particular, with regard to the seriousness of the environmental problems being faced by a significant proportion of the region's urban population, the relevant levels of government are called upon to give priority attention to the extension and improvement of basic infrastructures for the provision of essential services such as drinking water and the disposal or treatment of waste, including household and industrial waste, because of the implications of such services for the state of health and, more generally, the well-being of the population.

6. Considering the risks of environmental degradation entailed by the rapid expansion of human settlements in fragile ecosystems, particularly in rural areas, in both continental and island countries, Governments, together with private agents, are urged to ensure the consideration of long-term action factors that may lead to irreversible environmental damage. Measures to this end should be conceived as part of a process that includes the opening up of alternative options, an adequate set of infrastructure conditions and stimuli to guide the expansion towards preferable zones, and environmentally sound modalities of settlement.

7. Considering that environmental deterioration results from the irrationality of current development patterns, as manifested in the prevalence of inappropriate technologies and consumption patterns, mainly among industrialized countries and privileged minorities in developing countries, and in the worsening standards of living of vast sectors of the population, and that demographic growth is not the main cause of such deterioration, Governments are urged to adopt environmentally sustainable development strategies and, in that context, to give due priority to social programmes and policies, including those on population and education.

8. Considering that the various social actors share responsibility for preserving the environment, Governments are urged to reinforce and expand elements which promote awareness and knowledge about linkages between population variables and environmental variables in education and communication programmes, whether public or private, formal or non-formal. Actions should therefore be grounded on the community, organized groups and the crucial role played by families, and should take into account the important role played by women. What should be created is an ecological awareness of the need to preserve the environment and a clear understanding of the consequences of practices that might be harmful to resources and to the environment, especially those practices that are immediately related to health, education, social well-being and patterns of human settlement.

II.3 Women and population dynamics

1. Considering that stereotypes, prejudices and negative attitudes regarding women and their role in contemporary society persist in the countries of the region, and impede the effective exercise of women's reproductive rights, Governments are urged to take effective measures designed to eliminate such attitudes by promoting changes in forms of socialization, in the mass media and in formal and non-formal education.

2. Considering that fuller integration into the educational system and raising women's level of education are crucial to upgrading their social status, that they are decisive factors in reducing maternal and infant mortality and that they influence reproductive behaviour by affecting the age at which unions first form and the number of children they have, Governments are urged to allocate more resources for the development of programmes that encourage the integration and uninterrupted attendance of women in the educational system, both inside and outside the classroom, particularly through population education and communication programmes, which should incorporate the gender perspective.

3. Considering that, in general, women have a low rate of participation in the labour market and are in an unfavourable position within it, in terms of earning lower wages, having less access to social security benefits, representing a larger share of the informal sector and having higher unemployment rates; that certain activities carried out by the female population are undervalued; and that this situation is aggravated by the existence of a high percentage of women heads of household and the fact that many elderly women live alone, Governments and the private sector are urged to facilitate the incorporation of women into the working world on an equal footing with the rest of the population and, in particular, to ensure their access to existing social security programmes.

4. Recognizing that most national and international efforts to lower fertility are aimed almost exclusively at women's reproductive behaviour, Governments are urged to adopt and promote approaches that seek to introduce a gender equity criterion in this area.

5. Taking into account that reproductive rights include that of non-life-threatening maternity, it is recommended that Governments provide universal access to sex education, health programmes, family planning and pre-natal, obstetrical and post-natal care, according priority to the most vulnerable groups of women and, in particular, to the care and prevention of teenage pregnancy, and incorporating the gender perspective, particularly in the case of teenage mothers.

6. Considering that abortion is a major public health issue in the countries of the region and that, while various views are held in this regard, none of them accepts abortion as a method of regulating fertility, generally speaking, it is recommended that Governments devote greater attention to the study and follow-up of this issue, with a view to evaluating how prevalent abortion really is and its impact on the health of women and their families; Governments should also promote universal access to proper guidance on how to prevent unwanted pregnancies.

7. Considering that the family is the environment which defines the various types of organization of daily life and is, in large part, at the root of gender inequalities, which can lead to forms of violence, Governments are urged to incorporate this aspect into population policies and programmes.

8. Considering that the effectiveness of programmes to achieve gender equity invariably requires strong political will that promotes the solid participation of all sectors of society, it is recommended that, to this end, Governments seek to involve not only the public sector but also non-governmental groups active in the social sphere and the private sector.

9. Considering that sweeping legislative changes have been introduced in the region with a view to eliminating inequalities and discrimination against women as concerns their rights, it is recommended that Governments promote the dissemination of such rights and establish the necessary mechanisms for their exercise, ensuring compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, designing legal mechanisms to guarantee the equality of pregnant women in the job market and prohibiting the discriminatory work restrictions currently enforced in some countries.

10. Considering the region's experience in the development of women's programmes and the importance of gender-conscious population education and research in formulating further proposals for action, Governments are urged to evaluate the achievements made and to promote the training of qualified personnel in the integration of the gender perspective, incorporating it into population curricula and encouraging research into the influence of gender inequality on the processes of development and demographic change.

II.4 Population policies and programmes

1. Considering the essential role of population variables in the task of changing production patterns with social equity in pluralistic, democratic societies, consistent with the basic criteria of environmental sustainability, as well as the right to national sovereignty, Governments are urged, when adopting and implementing population policies, to faithfully reflect the true situation of each country and its various social strata with a view to formulating objectives and targets that, in keeping with the recommendations of Agenda 21, promote the preservation of the ecosystems constituting their national geography and the sound exploitation of their resources.

2. Taking into account that the existing institutional order in the countries of the region is based on respect for individual rights, it is recommended that, beyond basic rights such as education and health care, the effective and equitable exercise of individual rights in areas of demographic concern, especially reproductive behaviour, be promoted in accordance with individual convictions, principles or beliefs.

3. Considering the desirability of having an institutional body responsible for the formulation and implementation of population policy, and considering the multisectoral nature of such policy and the experience of the countries of the region in this area, it is recommended that Governments establish or strengthen the institutional and legal frameworks necessary to ensure the genuine integration of these policies into development strategies. To that end, the experience of each country should be evaluated.

4. Bearing in mind respect for the principle of individual freedom of choice, population education and communication programmes are basic tools for providing guidance and information on this principle. It is therefore recommended that Governments continue implementing such programmes, while respecting the population's cultural diversity and making the necessary changes in order to gear their programmes accordingly. To this end, the evaluation component of these programmes and the exchange of experiences among the countries of the region must be strengthened.

5. Reiterating the need to take an integrated approach in formulating development strategies, and considering that efforts to integrate demographic variables into development planning have been only partially successful, Governments are urged to weigh their experiences and redouble their efforts to give express consideration in their development programmes, in particular at regional and local levels, to both the relevant demographic variables and the impact their development programmes are expected to have on population dynamics.

Reaffirming that national Governments are primarily responsible for designing, implementing and evaluating population policies and programmes, it is recommended that these be designed with a view to active participation by legislatures, local governments, social groups, community organizations and non-governmental organizations, which will bolster the viability and effectiveness of such policies and programmes and, at the same time, help to consolidate democratic systems. To this end, population policies must clearly indicate that the community and non-governmental organizations are equal participants, along with politicians and experts, in policy design, implementation and follow-up. Broad national consensus on population policies is required if they are to have the legitimacy needed for their effective implementation.

7. Bearing in mind the different socio-economic situation of various groups according to age and gender -such as children, youth, women and men of reproductive age and the elderly-, specific policies and programmes must be identified for these groups which emphasize efforts to facilitate their integration in society.

8. Considering that a large and, in many cases, growing part of Latin American and Caribbean society is living in poverty or indigence, Governments are requested to increase government spending on social sectors, including population programmes.

9. Taking into account that in the region various indigenous peoples have survived in precarious, marginal living conditions and, in many cases, run the risk of extinction, Governments are urged to adopt, in the short term, population policies and programmes for these groups which consider the need to safeguard and protect the specific cultural traits of peoples, while recognizing and respecting their space, land, language, and systems of values and beliefs. Governments are also invited to incorporate into their sustainable development strategies the indigenous knowledge accumulated over generations about the conservation of land, natural resources and the environment.

II.5 Development, health, family planning and well-being

1. Considering that the family plays a fundamental role in the reproduction and socialization of future generations, Governments are requested to support the family as an institution through specific policies that take into account changes in its form, its organization and its size and structure. In this connection, family life education, for both men and women, should be promoted through all available means and particularly through population education.

2. Recognizing that the opportunity to regulate fertility is a universally recognized human right, it is recommended that Governments ensure the full exercise of this right as one of their prime objectives and provide the accurate, complete information necessary for that purpose. Accordingly, they should provide access to family planning services, expand their coverage and improve their quality, providing care without restriction to all men and women who want it, in a framework of full respect for individual freedoms and for the diversity of socio-cultural and religious beliefs and values.

3. Recognizing that family planning programmes, because they help to reduce high-risk pregnancy, cannot be detached from social policies and, in particular, health and education programmes, it is recommended that they be designed as tools for providing health care throughout the reproductive cycle. In this regard, family planning objectives should include reducing maternal and infant morbidity and mortality, lowering the risks of teenage pregnancy and abortion, and preventing sexually transmitted diseases.

4. Bearing in mind that acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) is a source of growing concern in the countries of the region and that existing projections suggest a significant increase in its incidence in the coming years, and considering also that this syndrome is related to sexual and reproductive behaviour, Governments are urged to incorporate measures into reproductive health, population education and family planning programmes as a matter of priority with the aim of preventing its spread and ensuring that patients receive adequate medical care and non-discriminatory treatment.

5. Taking into account that there are still very pronounced social disparities in most countries as regards, inter alia, income, health, education and place of residence, it is recommended that Governments, in collaboration with non-governmental organizations and the private sector, undertake

family planning initiatives, aimed primarily at making this service accessible to the most disadvantaged groups, thereby helping to bring about greater social equity.

6. Considering that teenage pregnancy gives cause for concern because of its impact on maternal and child health, especially in view of the high incidence of maternal morbidity and mortality, and because of its psychological and social repercussions, such as the disruption of schooling, its interference with the mother's training to enter the labour market and the difficulties it entails for the maintenance of unions, Governments are urged to devote their efforts, on a priority basis, to designing and adopting global reproductive health care models for teenagers, focusing particular attention on population education, with emphasis on family life education, comprehensive sex education and family planning. The design of these models should be tailored to the socio-cultural context in which they are applied. Governments are also urged to reconsider regulations restricting teenagers' access to birth control methods. The launching of programmes to address the psychological and social consequences of teenage pregnancy, making every effort to avoid disrupting the mother's schooling and to facilitate her incorporation into the labour market, is also recommended.

7. Considering the right of individuals, couples and unions to have access to a broad range of methods for regulating their fertility, which, together with the help of professional counseling in the selection of the method most suited to the user's socio-cultural and personal situation, largely determines the quality and effectiveness of family planning services, Governments are urged to devote special attention to ensuring the genuine availability of a wide variety of contraceptive options and providing information about what those options involve. It is also necessary to improve the technical skills of service providers, their interpersonal relationship with users and the structure and organization of follow-up services and mechanisms.

8. Considering that tubal ligation is very common in certain countries of the region and the concern that this has aroused, as it is an irreversible decision that should be taken voluntarily, since it might be regretted at a different stage in life, it is recommended that Governments encourage, at all levels at which such services are provided, the strengthening of advisory mechanisms to inform potential users of sterilization about the existence of alternative contraceptive methods and the consequences of choosing a permanent method.

Governments should establish criteria in this regard and clear regulations for their application, and should ensure effective compliance with them.

9. Considering the above-mentioned desirability of having a broad range of available contraceptive methods to choose from, it is recommended that support be given to bio-medical research for the development of contraceptives that are not hazardous to human health, and that local production thereof be expanded. These actions should be carried out in a manner that also reflects the perspective of the social sciences and human behavioural sciences. International assistance, subject to the approval of the competent national bodies, is an important means of strengthening these efforts.

10. Taking into account that some population groups show a preference for methods based on periodic abstinence, it is recommended that research be extended to cover such methods, seeking to develop more effective procedures for detecting the time of ovulation; to that end, attention must be focused on both the accuracy and simplicity of such methods and the ease with which knowledge about them can be transmitted to the population.

11. Taking into account current trends towards the decentralization of decision-making about social policy and of its management, and recognizing that maternal and child health and family planning programmes are a part of such social policy, Governments are urged to implement a thoroughgoing policy in this regard, allowing for ever greater participation of provincial, departmental and municipal governments; and ensuring sufficient availability of resources. It will also be extremely important to open up channels of communication and to share leadership responsibilities with community organizations, women's associations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

12. Recognizing that, although for purposes of implementing programmes it may be desirable to set targets as to either the number of users or fertility rates, this should not interfere with the exercise of individual freedoms, it is recommended that Governments refrain from establishing quotas for the number of persons that may use the services provided.

13. Considering that, in vast segments of the region's population, men's active involvement in decisions about family planning and the use of contraceptive methods is still low and that there is even opposition to contraceptive use by women, it is

recommended that specific information, education and communication strategies be introduced in order to rectify this situation. In addition, efforts must be made to promote the education of men in responsible fatherhood and the development and use of contraceptive methods that can be used by men.

14. Considering that information, communication and education on population issues play a decisive role in decision-making concerning reproductive behaviour, Governments are urged to launch programmes in this area or strengthen those already in place. In particular, it is recommended that population education programmes emphasizing preparation for family life and sex education be more rapidly institutionalized in the educational system.

15. Considering that one of the goals of family planning should be to support couples in their efforts to maintain the desired family size, and recognizing the significant progress made by biotechnology in the development of treatments for infertility and assisted fertility, Governments are urged, within their means and their realistic health infrastructure capacities, to provide such services to individuals and support research in this field, within the framework of internationally accepted ethical principles and standards.

16. Considering that future progress in family planning will depend largely on an improved understanding of reality, it is recommended that research in the field be promoted, in particular research on the socio-cultural factors that influence fertility and the dynamics of contraceptive use. It is further recommended that operational research be stepped up with a view to improving the quality of services and of population education and communication programmes.

II.6 International migration and development

1. Considering that international migration is a phenomenon that has existed throughout history and will continue to exist owing to political, economic and social disparities between countries, and recognizing that such migration consists, in large part, of undocumented persons who have little formal education and are subjected to discriminatory treatment in the places of transit and destination, Governments of the countries of origin and destination are urged to promote the institutional establishment of international agreements that set forth the necessary norms to oversee the situation of migrant workers and their families and ensure respect for their rights as recognized in various international instruments and conventions.

2. Considering also that some countries receiving immigrants are very small in size, and that uncontrolled immigration has an enormous impact on the demographic and socio-economic structure of these small countries, and particularly in small island developing countries, it is recommended that international bodies recognize the need for, and give support to, ongoing activities related to the measurement and analysis of the impact of these movements on demographic and economic changes. This could enable Governments to better plan and structure programmes to meet basic needs, provide basic services and enhance the quality of life of the population.

3. Also considering the importance of emigration of professionals and technicians and the problems which this type of reverse transfer of technology poses for developing countries, it is recommended that the Governments of developed and developing countries cooperate in establishing adequate infrastructures and in programming development and training human resources in accordance with the needs and priorities of economic and social development, which would generate a suitable national framework that would reduce structural and social imbalances and favour economic and social development, which, in turn, would undoubtedly encourage professionals and technicians to remain in their home countries.

4. Taking into account that qualified human resources are indispensable for furthering development in the region, there is an urgent need for the international community —and international organizations— to seek ways of promoting scientific and technical cooperation between developed and developing countries, with a view to intensifying the transfer of technology to developing countries, under just and

favourable conditions, and to facilitating its dissemination and use in those countries. It is recommended that Governments, in accordance with their national situations and legislation, establish programmes to promote the return and linkage of qualified human resources, for the sake of transferring the knowledge and information needed by their countries of origin.

5. Considering the importance, in some countries of the region, of remittances from abroad for the household economies of groups living in poverty, it is recommended that Governments devise ways of providing guidance to the beneficiary families in the use of savings plans, strengthening their capacity for project management and execution, on a basis of respect for the relevant national legislation.

6. Considering the economic and social integration schemes being implemented at the regional and subregional levels and their consequences for the mobility of individuals within these new spatial configurations and for the operation of national migration policies, it is recommended that Governments progress in cooperating and exchanging information on matters concerning the norms regulating the entry and length of stay of individuals, and on their migration policies.

7. Taking into account that these integration schemes result in the formation of socio-economic areas which are broader than those of a single, isolated country, increasing the mobility of resources, Governments are urged to design and elaborate innovative ways of training, recovering and efficiently using the region's human resources.

8. Considering the frequency of the migration of refugees and of repatriation processes among the countries of the region, Governments are urged to formulate and implement economic and social programmes to guarantee the appropriate reabsorption of these populations; in addition, the international community is invited to continue to develop humanitarian aid and economic and social integration programmes.

9. In view of the serious lack of information and knowledge on trends and policies regarding international migration, it is recommended that the relevant international bodies collaborate with the countries in improving their sources of information, facilitating the exchange of data and research results, and elaborating periodic national and regional reports on international migration which provide adequate information for the formulation of policies and programmes in this field.

II.7 Training, data production and research

1. Recognizing the diversity of demographic situations in the region and the need for qualified professionals to address the problems that arise from these different situations, and at the same time taking into account the worsening conditions in which the very small number of regional and national centres and institutions currently operate, it is recommended that Governments and the international community increase their contributions for the training of demographers and experts in the field of population.

2. Considering the importance of demographic issues in many disciplines in the social and biological sciences, Governments are requested, within the existing university structure, to promote the inclusion of courses on demographic variables into the curricula of these disciplines. At the same time, publications and textbooks containing up-to-date demographic knowledge that is relevant to the region should be disseminated.

3. Taking into account that both the Caribbean countries and the Central American countries have expressed an urgent need to increase the availability of demographers, Governments and cooperation agencies are urged to strengthen national and subregional educational infrastructures in demography and population studies.

4. Considering that the availability of adequate socio-demographic information is crucial for sectoral and local development programmes and projects, the Governments of the region are urged to make efforts to strengthen national and regional statistical offices as a precondition for improving their sources and systems of demographic information, with special emphasis on vital statistics and other existing administrative records, with a view to substantiating socio-demographic research and regular follow-up and study of demographic characteristics and trends, particularly in the areas of health, fertility and contraception. Likewise, it is recommended that technical cooperation, both horizontal and with international organizations specializing in demographic research and statistics, be developed in order to contribute to diagnoses and programmes of action targeting vulnerable population groups.

5. Considering that in order to further integrate population policies into development plans and programmes, information must be more readily available and knowledge of the

relationships between demographic and socio-economic variables must be enhanced, it is recommended that Governments establish an information and data collection and analysis network that takes current development strategies into account in formulating policy and implementing population programmes; Governments should also foster closer interaction between policy makers and researchers in the population field.

6. Recognizing that demographic research and population studies have been —with very few exceptions— dependent on the availability of supplementary financial resources, which have almost always come from the outside, or that they have been treated as a chapter or an extension of international research programmes, countries are urged to undertake, notwithstanding the continuation of current arrangements, regional and subregional efforts to expand and deepen their knowledge geared to a better understanding of key aspects of population dynamics, and their variables and socio-economic and cultural contextual determinants, as well as the relationship between population, the environment and poverty. Existing national and regional networks of institutions and ad hoc inter-agency agreements or such other mechanisms as are deemed appropriate can be used to this end.

7. In order to further integrate population policies in development plans and programmes, and recognizing the significant role of political will in facilitating the achievement of these objectives, Governments are urged to explore, with the assistance of international intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies, innovative methods of raising awareness among political leaders, planners and policy-makers of the interrelationship between population and development and the need to incorporate population issues in social and economic programmes.

8. Taking into account that new internal migration patterns are emerging in the region which have not yet been looked into sufficiently, and that the policies applied so far to influence the spatial distribution of the population have not been adequately assessed, Governments are called upon to promote research and studies on this matter, in coordination with universities, academic centres and other non-governmental organizations.

9. Noting that the problems of the environment transcend conventional political and administrative boundaries, Governments are requested to recognize ecosystems, in conducting studies on demographic trends and territorial

mobility of the population, as units of analysis, incorporating them into the pertinent chapters of the statistical system. This approach is particularly relevant in those subregions where regional or border integration initiatives are being taken.

9. Considering that the international community has stressed the importance of sustainable development, as set out in Agenda 21, and that the sustainability of development simultaneously depends on production and consumption patterns, demographic trends and the dynamic linkages between the two; and bearing in mind that the accumulated knowledge on these matters is still insufficient, it is considered essential to promote interdisciplinary studies, at national and subnational levels, to incorporate these linkages into the design of development policies and programmes.

II.8 International cooperation in the population field

1. Recognizing that the mobilization of international financial and technical resources is essential to ensure the implementation of the recommendations contained in this Consensus, Governments of the developed countries members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), other bilateral donors and global and regional multilateral organizations are urged to substantially increase their allocations of resources for population assistance.

2. Considering that cooperation needs in the population sector are growing, dynamic and require ongoing attention, it is recommended that official development assistance include specific, increasing appropriations for population activities to the year 2000. Given the nature of this topic, the use of such appropriations should be based on flexible criteria, allowing for their adaptation to the numerous problems in this sector.

3. Taking into account the experience acquired by a number of Latin American and Caribbean countries in the design and implementation of policies and programmes in the various areas covered by this Consensus, it is recommended that Governments increase technical cooperation activities between countries of the region, and international organizations are urged to support such activities.

4. Bearing in mind that there has been a real decrease in the resources of the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE) and that this seriously limits the attention that can be given to current and future training and research needs in the field of population and development, primarily in Central America and the Caribbean, it is recommended that the Presiding Officers of Committee of the High-level Government Experts (CEGAN), in consultation with the ECLAC secretariat, explore and investigate new forms and sources of financing to strengthen CELADE in order to benefit countries and satisfy their requirements.

5. Taking into account the national, regional, interregional and global dimensions of the recommendations adopted, member countries call upon the relevant national and multilateral institutions to implement them according to their capacity and to adopt the legislation required for their implementation.

6. The members and associate members take into account the role of non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the

recommendations contained in the present Consensus and reiterate their support for mechanisms to ensure democratic participation in the identification, preparation and implementation of policies, programmes and projects, with a view to involving the beneficiaries thereof directly.

7. Considering the importance of this Consensus, the member States decide to promote the adoption of a regional plan of action based on the recommendations contained herein, request the ECLAC secretariat to elaborate a draft thereof, and invite ECLAC to seek the collaboration of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The member States also ask the Presiding Officers of CEGAN and all interested countries to take measures to establish communication mechanisms and to provide the ECLAC secretariat with appropriate guidelines. This plan will be presented at the twenty-fifth session of ECLAC, to be held at Cartagena, Colombia, and submitted as a contribution to the preparatory process for the International Conference on Population and Development, to be held at Cairo in September 1994.

8. Taking into account the forthcoming International Conference on Population and Development, to be held at Cairo in September 1994, the Governments of the region pledge to participate actively in it by contributing to the discussion of policies from their national viewpoints and from a regional perspective, and working to ensure that the updated World Population Plan of Action reflects the specific characteristics of Latin America and the Caribbean, in harmony with those of other developing regions and with the general interests of the rest of the world.

9. In view of the new dimension that will infuse the population and development issue following the Cairo International Conference, the States Members of the United Nations are urged to take the necessary institutional steps to endow UNFPA with the instruments it needs to apply the World Population Plan of Action, and ECLAC and CELADE with similar instruments for action at the regional level.

10. Mindful that international population and development issues, including environmental concerns, have an impact on all member and associate member countries of ECLAC, and further mindful that the contributions in particular of associate member countries to international cooperation in population and development enhance the international process in addressing these issues while also assisting these countries in their socio-economic development, the Preparatory Committee of the

International Conference on Population and Development is urged to include in its rules of procedure provisions for extending observer status in the preparatory process and at the International Conference on Population and Development to associate members of regional economic commissions, consistent with the extension of such a status to these countries at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

11. By adopting this Consensus, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean express their commitment to apply their recommendations and, in this context, to take the necessary steps to that end, at the institutional level and in the domestic mobilization of resources within the prioritization of social development and comprehensive assistance to women and children.